

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V 7 Issue 9
Editor: Kathy Batzkall

NOVEMBER 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

November is the month for thankfulness. I'm sure we can think of many things to be thankful for: our loved ones, family, friends, pets, hopefully the list goes on for each of you. Thanksgiving Day is a yearly reminder for thankfulness and a time of reflection. One thing Charlie and I are thankful for is the fact that we are done with fall leaves for another year! I love all the spectacular colors of the fall leaves, but only up IN THE TREES! I'm thankful when I've mulched up the last of them!

November also has another important meaning, especially for most garden clubs. November is your planning month. This might just be the single most important monthly meeting of the year. All the great ideas for club events and all the wonderful memories you gained this past year, probably stemmed from a November planning meeting. Lots of planning goes into each club's roster for a calendar of events. A big thank you should also go out to all the club leaders who spend their time and energy making your club successful.

As we go into these November meetings, feel free to "borrow" ideas from other clubs. CRG's website has links to each club's meeting agendas and trips on the club pages. The Council of Rockford Gardeners is going to help each club's planning with two events in July. First, there will be the annual Free Garden Walk that can replace your July meeting. Secondly, CRG will be hosting a previously mentioned activity in July for each club to attend: a narrated garden tour at the home of Dr. Jeff and Diane Behr. Final date and further details will be presented at a later time. The Program Committee has been working on a CRG Christmas event "Spirits and Sparkle" for this December. I think they have come up with a real winner—something very unique for the holidays! All details are posted in this newsletter on page 4.

As November is upon us, remember to be thankful for all that we have in life and all we are able to share with others less fortunate. CRG has a 42 year history of being great stewards of our community. From our scholarship program, to our work with the Rock Valley Food Pantry and Habitat for Humanity, to our volunteer efforts at all the Rockford area community gardens and presenting our annual Free Garden Walks. Being thankful can take on many colors, kind of like those leaves of Fall. Let's make every day a day of Thanksgiving!

In closing, please remember, “Don't just wait until the fourth Thursday in November to sit with family and friends to give thanks.” - Charmaine J. Forde

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

GARDEN CLUB NEWS AND ADVENTURES

November
2022

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SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



Wildflowers enjoyed a beautiful day on October 27th visiting Cantigny Gardens in Wheaton.



Thank you, Volunteers!

The Ethel Johnson Lilac Garden at Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden was maintained and cared for by these Council members:

**Anita Wetzberger
Rosanne Southwood
Jen Derricks Blaisdell
Ann Somers**

This devoted crew donated 59 volunteer hours during the 2022 growing season.

We thank them for their efforts.

What a great group!

Thanksgiving Trivia

Where was the first Thanksgiving?

Colonists and the Wampanoag tribe shared an autumn feast in 1621 in Plymouth, Massachusetts that is widely acknowledged as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations. But some historians argue that Florida may have been the true site of the first Thanksgiving in North America.

What did they eat at the first Thanksgiving?

The Wampanoag brought deer and there would have been lots of local seafood plus the fruits of the first pilgrim harvest, including pumpkin.

What does the poem, 'Mary had a little lamb,' have to do with Thanksgiving?

President Abraham Lincoln called for an annual Thanksgiving celebration on the final Thursday in November. The proclamation was the result of years of impassioned lobbying by "Mary Had a Little Lamb" author and abolitionist, Sarah Josepha Hale.

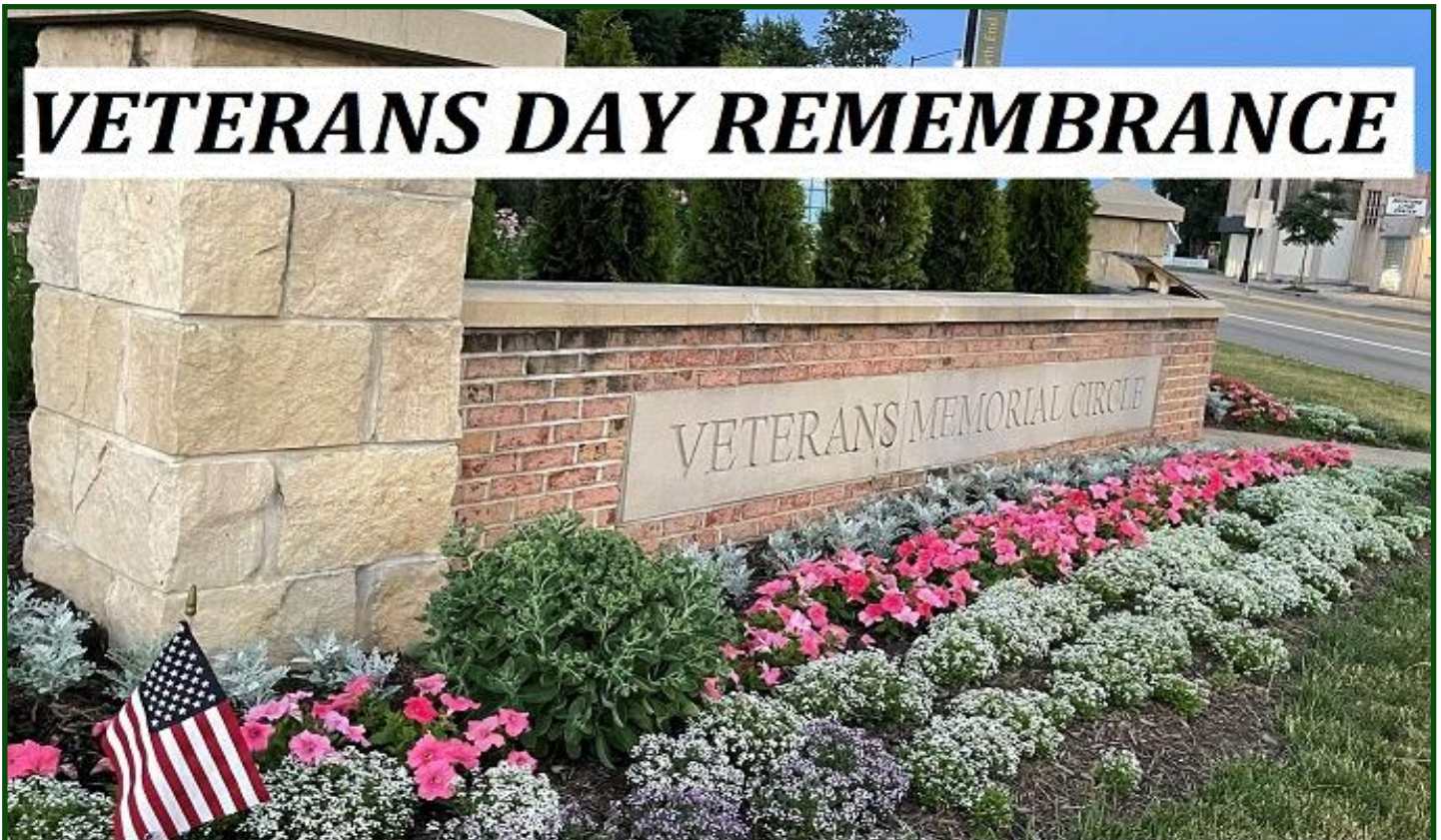
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME DEDICATION

Home dedication on November 20, 2022

Thank you to Diane Donze for seeing that new homeowner Kayla and her family received a beautiful fall wreath and planter for their home dedication.



VETERANS DAY REMEMBRANCE



<https://www.gardenclub.org/blue-and-gold-star-memorials>

Spirits and Sparkle

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS

Gathering of Clubs Event

Tuesday, December 6, 6-8 pm

Sedona of Rockford

1113 30th Street, Rockford

CRG Gathering of Clubs Event and Holiday Fundraiser for Rock House Kids at Sedona of Rockford

CRG will partner with Rock House Kids, an organization where kids can go after school.

Please bring sealed snacks for after-school kids.

(Suggestions: fruit rollups, peanut butter crackers, Capri Sun, raisins, etc.)

Wine | Wassail | Holiday Cookies | Door Prizes | Surprise Event

Unique to Northern Illinois, this Spanish style Villa boasts five patios, a gazebo and an 1886 outdoor dry Cantina with funk. This is only one of the many surprises you will find as you explore this spectacular home. This property is filled with lavish décor, beautiful furnishings, many seating areas, and an upper level that boasts a 12 foot ceiling.



Owner Marlene Schoeneck has graciously invited the Council of Rockford Gardeners to this special home for a fun filled evening of Holiday Cheer!

<https://www.sedonaofrockford.com/>



WREATHS FOR VETERANS

By Yvette DeWisleare,

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County



Every year, as long as I could remember growing up, my grandmother would place grave blankets for my uncle and Grandpa on Veteran's Day and make sure the urns were clean before winter. I never quite understood "grave blankets," but as a young child, I wasn't about to argue with my staunch German grandmother. There's something eerily peaceful about the cemetery in the winter, and I didn't have much choice but to go along and help her. I liked the cemetery trips, and I loved my grandmother.

Wreaths came to us from the Ancient Greek. In 776 BC, winners of the Olympic games were crowned with olive branches, and with that they acquired divine qualities and were exalted the same level of the Gods.

The Olive tree was a symbol of peace, victory, honor, and unity. By the 16th Century, the Germans were using Evergreen wreaths for decorations, but Christians also claim some credit from St. Boniface, using what was left over after trimming trees in the seventh century. There is no dispute the wreath is a never-ending circle to symbolize eternal life.

Last year, my daughter and I were able to participate in [Wreaths Across America](#) through the Rochelle chapter of DAR. It was a beautiful ceremony, and I kept thinking of my Grandma, and wishing Mom were here to share this, or wishing I were at Arlington to place the wreath on Mom's grave. It was a beautiful ceremony, and I met one of my Uncle's best friends, which made the day so much more meaningful, as if I hadn't cried enough.



In 2005 a photo of snow-covered wreaths carefully placed on the rows of perfectly aligned headstones at Arlington National Cemetery went viral. It was a silent reminder of honor and respect to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country. It all started because one company, owned by a man who'd been to Arlington as a young boy, had a surplus of Christmas wreaths in 1992. The cemetery made an unforgettable impression on him, and he wanted to honor our veterans. He'd been donating wreaths for many years, quietly. Morrill Worcester, the owner of the Worcester Wreath Company that started the nonprofit Wreaths Across America, with the help of Senator Olympia Snowe of Maine, the wreaths were placed at Arlington National Cemetery in one of the older sections of the cemetery.

As the years went by, more wreaths were donated, traditional red hand-made bows were tied and attached, several individuals and organizations

Wreaths Across America continued on page 6

Here's how you can get involved and volunteer with Wreaths Across America!

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

Wreaths Across America continued...

offered to help including volunteers gathered with members of the community from the local American Legion and VFW Posts. James Prout, the owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation from Maine to Virginia. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington, D.C. helped organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The rest, as they say, is history.

WAA's annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as the world's largest veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes, and communities along the way. Their mission is simple: **Remember-Honor-Teach**. Last year, Wreaths Across America and a network of volunteers placed more than 2.4 million wreaths at 3136 locations across the country, all because a 12-year-old paper boy from the Bangor Daily News won a trip to Washington D.C... a trip that changed his life, and the lives of many Veteran's families forever.



My Parent's Grave



Uncle Bud's Grave—Rochelle, IL



The view of Arlington House.

National Wreaths Across America Day December 17, 2022

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 3,400 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

Local wreath-laying ceremonies are held at these cemeteries:

Greenwood Cemetery
1011 Auburn Street
Rockford, IL

Trinity Memory Gardens
14712 E Twombly Rd
Rochelle, IL

Belvidere Cemetery
1121 North Main Street
Belvidere, IL

Daysville Cemetery
3194-3616 South Daysville Road
Oregon, IL

We understand we have Veterans Day in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, but our service members sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve our freedoms.

In many homes, there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

NOVEMBER 7, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Mary Ann Miller, Treasurer

Balance as of October 1, 2022\$10,739.45
Receipts: None..... 0.00
Disbursements: Cash – Reimbursement for
VISA card for scholarship recipient,
and for District 1 luncheon gift 93.96
Ending Balance as of October 31, 2022\$10,645.49



Committee Reports

Awards – Elaine Parrovecchio reported that she emailed her contact at Kishwaukee College, but no recipient designated so far. Susan Schumacher said that there are not any students from the Rockford area at Kishwaukee College, so that might be the problem. Lynne Franzene-Lynde suggested that our previous recipient, Abigail, could be again considered. We could do more than one scholarship this year.

Civic and Conservation – Diane Donze reported that she did a Habitat planter. She purchased a houseplant and also got a fall wreath for their door. Diane reported that there will probably be only 3 planters this year and she commented that this is one thing we do for the community, and the people appreciate it.

Susan Schumacher is doing a *Plant America* grant for 4 trees. She will contact Carlson Nursery and find hardy trees with water bags. Mary Ann Miller said that the District has a \$500 grant from the dues that we pay, and we could apply for it. Mary Ann said the application should be sent to the attention of Debby Nagy.

Programs – Arch Smith reported that CRG will host a Gathering of Clubs Christmas Open House at Sedona of Rockford on December 6th. Council will provide cookies and drinks, and we will partner with Rock House Kids for a fundraiser and collect sealed snacks for the kids.

Publicity – Susan Schumacher will contact the *Rock River Times* to put an announcement in about CRG contributing snacks to Rock House Kids.

Susan also submitted a report on CRG activities to the District 1 direction for inclusion in Garden Glories, which will be a digital edition this winter.

Also, Susan suggests that members are encouraged to invite their friends to join our Facebook page; it is public, so anyone can participate.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith reported that he has about 6 or 7 gardens lined up for the Garden Walk and is working on the 8th.

Horticulture – Yvette DeWispelaere reported that it is going well.

Hospitality – Mary Pinter reported that our next meeting will be on January 3, 4, or 5th at a Council post-Christmas Party. (TBD) No meeting in February. March will be our installation of officers meeting.

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

Parliamentarian – Sarah Britton reported that "everything is fine."

Sunshine – Arch Smith said that **Cindy Rittenhouse** sent a sympathy card to Peg Goral for the loss of her husband, a sympathy card to Ann Somers for the loss of her sister, and a get well card to Becky Berggren for her shoulder surgery.

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

Ways & Means – Lynne Franzene-Lynde reported that we just have the Rock House Kids project right now.

Website – Kathy Batzkall reported that she would like a volunteer to check occasionally to see if anything needs to be updated on the website. Susan Schumacher volunteered. Also, please send the club 2023 program calendars to Kathy.

Our January meeting date to be determined.

All garden club members are encouraged to attend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Elaine Parrovecchio questioned how we should honor a scholarship recipient once we get a candidate from the school. Would we present the scholarship at the Christmas Party – or in March at the installation of officers meeting? A suggestion by Yvette DeWispelaere was made to contact the 4-H organization to see if they might have a scholarship candidate.

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

Evergreen Container Workshop

Saturday, November 19 or Sunday, December 4
10am – 12:30pm

Visitors Center Gallery

\$47/Klehm Member, \$50/General Public

This make-and-take workshop will demonstrate how to incorporate fresh evergreens into your holiday decorating, while creating a festive porch pot to bring home with you.

Containers, fresh greens, soil, branches, cones, and a bow will be provided.

(11/19) Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, November 16 and space is limited.

(12/4) Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, November 30 and space is limited.

815 OUTSIDE

<https://815outside.com/events/>

Hike at Kishwaukee Gorge North Forest Preserve (North),

4643 Blackhawk Road, Cherry Valley, IL

Saturday, November 19, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Roughly 2 mile hike, featuring a steep wooden staircase down to shoreline of the Kishwaukee River, giving us a beautiful view of the gorge. The rest of the hike is level, with grassy and dirt trails. *RSVP - Free*

Hike at Rock Cut State Park

7318 Harlem Rd, Loves Park

Wednesday, November 30 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Join us for a roughly 2 mile hike through the unpaved trail system of Rock Cut State Park! This trail is made for hikers and bikers and will take us through the woodlands of the state park. The trail is dirt and has potential to become muddy. *RSVP—Free*

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

318 Spring Creek Road

Rockford, Illinois 61107

<https://andersongardens.org/>

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.

Illuminated

Thursdays through Sundays only, Dec. 1-30

Experience Anderson Gardens in a new light. A large portion of the Garden is decorated with trees wrapped in white string lights and pine trees lit with soft-colored accents. For a special weekend treat, guests are encouraged to stroll the winter wonderland while enjoying hot chocolate and food trucks and listening to Christmas carolers. See website for schedules.

