

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V 8 Issue 1
Editor: Kathy Batzkall

JAN-FEB 2023



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

Wow, can you believe it, another year has passed. Hopefully everyone survived the busy holidays season. Luckily for all of us, the winter weather really hasn't been all that bad... so far. I'm sure we are all counting the months until we are back outside doing what we love the best: WEEDING! Or something like that.

Looking back over this past year, the Council of Rockford Gardeners really had a full year of activities. From the plant sale, to the booth at Klehm's Garden Fair, next the garden walk, then the Fall Frolic and ending the year with the Spirits and Sparkle Christmas event at the Sedona of Rockford. A big "thank you" to Marlene Schoeneck for her generosity in hosting our group. On a side note, I'm so proud of your courtesy at the Sedona, because by being so kind, you convinced Marlene to recently join one of our clubs!

We finished a busy year filled with numerous events. Perhaps we were just making up for the lost time that we missed over the previous two years. However, we are an optimistic group and will just keep looking forward in a positive way. We have several exciting things in the works for this coming year. Unfortunately, weeding is not one of them!

Our council meetings are always open to all who wish to join us. For anyone who would like to get more involved with the council itself, please let me know and we will gladly accept your input with open arms!

In closing, please remember, *“What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have never been discovered.”*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Jan-Feb
2023

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SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



This newsletter is shorter than usual due to the fact that we did not have a regular board meeting in January. We hope you enjoy all the holiday photos. More news coming in March.

Spirits and Sparkle

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



Left: Anita Wetzberger opens her prize—a Christmas gnome.



Games of the evening included finding hidden gnomes around the Sedona property.



Garden club members relax and enjoy the holiday decorations at Sedona.



Lynne Franzene Lynde was awarded the CRG Petal of Honor for her generous service.

GARDEN CLUB HOLIDAY EVENTS



Our CRG members contributed copious amounts of snacks for the **Rock House Kids** organization during the CRG Spirits and Sparkle Gathering of Clubs Event and Holiday Fundraiser at Sedona of Rockford.

Dear Friends of Rock House Kids,
We can't thank you enough for the amazing donation of "kid friendly" food. It was very thoughtful of you to ask for donations for RAK at your Christmas Party this year. It is such a blessing to us, and the families we serve.
Because of people like you, we are able to meet many of the needs of these inner city children! Thank you!
Sincerely, RAK Staff



John Lynde, Arch Smith, and Lynne Franzene Lynde toured the impressive RHK facility after delivering the snacks.



GARDEN CLUB HOLIDAY EVENTS



The **CRG Board** met for an informal meeting at Arch's home on January 3rd, and we enjoyed his beautiful Christmas decorations and a great luncheon which he prepared.

Lori Walsh was the lucky recipient of a genuine, certified autographed photo of Mr. Claus!



Potpourri Club held a holiday luncheon, hosted by Mary Lou Hiemenz, whose home was decorated to the nines. A thank you to Mary Lou who went over and above!

Warm thanks also to our generous members for all the donations of socks, hats, gloves, etc. for Miss Carley's.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE GARDEN EVENTS

Save the Date for Upcoming U of I Extension Events

Gardening for Food, Flowers, and Fun

Watch for more details about our upcoming garden event, Gardening for Food, Flowers, and Fun, slated for Saturday, March 11. A perennial favorite that will be sure to please again this year. Look for details to be posted on our website in late January. Gardening for Food, Flowers, and Fun is presented by University of Illinois Extension and Winnebago County Master Gardeners at NIU Rockford, 8500 East State Street, Rockford, Illinois.

Joys of Gardening

Mark your calendar for our annual gardening program, Joys of Gardening, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 25. The program is presented by University of Illinois Extension and the Stephenson County Master Gardeners in the Student Conference Center at Highland Community College, from 9 a.m. to Noon. Watch for more details and registration on our website in January.

<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/>



KLEHM ABORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN

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FREE Zoom Webinar:

“Your Garden Can Feed You All Year”

Monday, January 30, 2023, 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Pre-registration is required to receive the Zoom link:

This fun and interactive workshop will teach you how to have your earliest harvest ever in spring, keep the momentum going in summer through succession planting, and have a robust fall garden that feeds you all the way to holiday gatherings.

Speaker Megan Cain is setting out to create a legion of gardening addicts that successfully and passionately grow their own food. Through her gardening education business, The Creative Vegetable Gardener, she helps people get more from their gardens by first mastering the essentials and then indulging in the colorful details that make gardening not just a favorite pastime, but a lifestyle. She’s published two books, *Super Easy Food Preserving* and *Smart Start Garden Planner*, and teaches seasonal online and in person classes. She lives and gardens in Madison, WI.

Snowshoe Hike with Rocktown Adventures

Saturday, February 4, 2023, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Register through Rocktown Adventures (Klehm is not collecting registrations for this event)

Celebrate the natural wonders of winter with a fun and unique outing in a beautiful setting as we head out to Klehm Arboretum for a Snowshoe Hike.

1.5 – 2 hour adventure starting with some basic instruction about snowshoeing. Then enjoy a hike around Klehm.

The price for this adventure is \$25 and includes snowshoes, poles, basic instruction, and a guide.

Register: Please call Rocktown Adventures at 815-636-9066 or sign up online rocktownadventures.com.

What to Bring/Wear: Please wear hard sole boots. Soft sole boots do not work in snowshoes. Dress in layers. Water or something to drink for yourself.

In the event Mother Nature does not cooperate or we fail to get the minimum amount of participants we will make a decision 24 hours in advance.