

# COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V 8 Issue 2  
Editor: Kathy Batzkall



**MARCH 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](http://councilofrockfordgardeners.org)

## Email editor:

[CRGnews815@gmail.com](mailto:CRGnews815@gmail.com)

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

On Monday March 6, the Council of Rockford Gardeners held its annual installation of officers luncheon at Tavern on Clark. A special thank you goes out to owners Sam and Danny for their hospitality. There were a dozen members in attendance. One long time council member, Mary Pinter, has decided to step down as hospitality chair and Alice Moczynski will be stepping up into that position. All other council members will remain in their positions.

The theme of the day was "The Wise Old Owl." Throughout history, various cultures have used the owl to represent and symbolize "wisdom." When I was a small boy, my father used to recite a poem (see next page) to my siblings and me. I thought this poem was fitting to share with the council members as they step forward in their leadership roles. Our waitress for the day, Alex, overheard the reading of the poem and mentioned to the group that this was her and her daughter Layla's favorite poem as well. In fact Alex, would sing a musical version of the Wise Old Owl to her young daughter each night before bed. Each council member present was presented a gift of an owl planter as a small token of my appreciation. I also presented our waitress Alex and her daughter Layla and the Tavern on Clark owners with the same gifts.

It's rewarding to see so many members that are willing to give of their time to help make CRG what it is today. They each deserve our gratitude and our support. With the tradition of the past presidents of CRG like Ann Somers, Sara Britton, Mary Ann Miller, Mary Pinter, etc. we strive to continue in their foot steps. As I have mentioned previously, all council meetings are always open to everyone and you are all encouraged to join us at anytime. Also, we, the council, welcome any member wishing to participate in a more active role.

April 16-17 are the dates of the Garden Clubs of Illinois annual convention. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend as Charlie and I will be visiting our vacation home in the Philippines for the month to spend time with Charlie's family. Susan Schumacher has volunteered to represent CRG at the GCI convention. Some of you may not know, but Susan is also on the board of Garden Clubs of Illinois. She also hosts our CRG's Facebook page as well as being the host of GCI's Facebook page.

*President's Pen continued page 2*

March  
2023

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SUBMIT questions or  
comments to:

[CRGnews815@gmail.com](mailto:CRGnews815@gmail.com)



### *President's Pen continued from page 1...*

During our meeting CRG council meeting on Monday, the topic of "guests" and "new members" was brought up. Yvette DeWispelaere made a suggestion that we should make more of an effort to thank guests for attending with a follow-up to invite them to a next meeting. Diane Donze made the suggestion that we should have a "buddy" for new members to help make them feel more comfortable and to encourage more involvement. All are great suggestions and would be great ideas to implement in all our clubs. As we all know, members are the backbone of each and every organization. Growing our membership should be the goal of all of us. We have a great organization and should be readily sharing it with others! A group of Owls, three or more is called a "parliament." My challenge to everyone, is let's try to grow each club by at least three new members of more for 2023.

Finally, if any member would like to make a suggestion or two on potential recipients for CRG to support through our up coming donations, feel free to contact me. Please try to keep suggestions "garden related" and I will gladly present any additional suggestions at our April council meeting.

In closing, please remember:

***" A wise old owl sat on an oak,  
the more he saw, the less he spoke,  
the less he spoke, the more he heard.  
Why aren't we all like that wise  
old bird?"***

Author unknown, however, my father George Smith kind of took ownership over the years

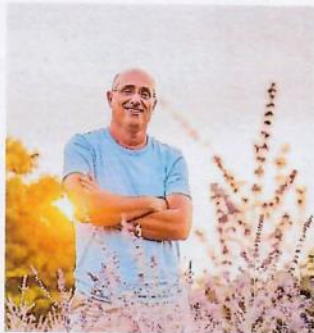
Musical adaptation- <https://youtu.be/MYNJyg78Jmc> (It's not me singing!)



Owl planters



**Garden Clubs of Illinois District 1  
Spring Meeting, Lunch and Presentation**



**PROVING THEIR WORTH: TOP PERENNIALS**

*A presentation based on successful trials at Chicago Botanic Garden  
by Richard Hawke, Director of Ornamental Plant Research*

**Thursday, April 13, 2023**

**Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club**

**5151 Guilford Road, Rockford, IL**

11:30am – Social

12pm – Lunch and District 1 Meeting

12:45pm – Proving Their Worth: Top Perennials

1:45pm – Raffle Announcements

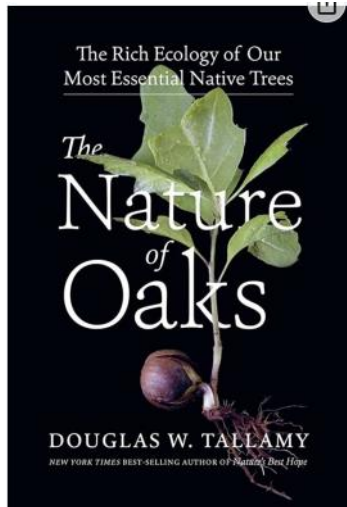
\$25 Per Person. Please RSVP to Margaret Buhl at 815.540.2277 or [margaretbuhl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:margaretbuhl@sbcglobal.net) by Wednesday, April 5 and include lunch preference of regular or vegetarian lunch option.

*Richard Hawke, Director of Ornamental Plant Research, Chicago Botanic Garden oversees the plant evaluation, plant breeding, and plant introduction programs. Richard has a horticulture degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is an author and contributing editor for Fine Gardening Magazine.*

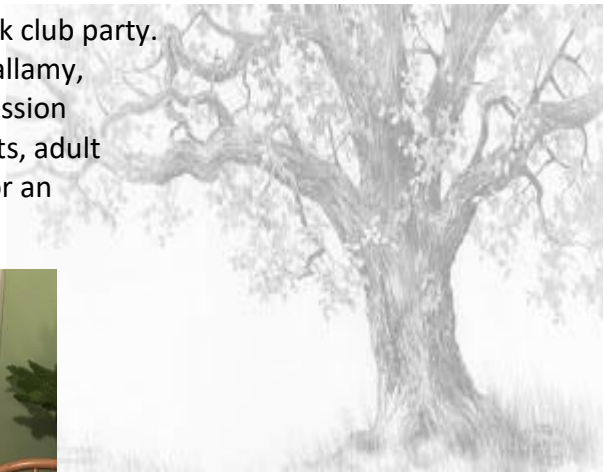
Event hosted by Rockford Garden Club

# GARDEN CLUB NEWS AND ADVENTURES

**Potpourri:** Valentine's Day annual luncheon/Trivia Game at Arch's home. We had 3 new Potpourri members join us. Welcome Bev, Bonnie and Karla!



**Plantaholics'** March meeting was a book club party. We read *The Nature of Oaks* by Doug Tallamy, and each of the members posed a discussion question to the group. Homemade treats, adult beverages, and lots of laughter made for an entertaining evening.



# TRENDING IN 2023 GARDENS

By Yvette DeWisleare,

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County

March is that glorious time of year when we usher in spring with the vernal equinox, plan our gardens, watch as things start popping up in our yards...and pray the spring bulbs don't freeze when we get a big snow dump! Gardening for me has always been a bit relaxed, so when someone says "TREND," I cringe a bit. However, I'm thrilled to be a part of a few garden trends embracing change. The more you can make of your little piece of this earth, the better off we'll all be. Here are the top five trending this year:

Let's start with creating **habitats for pollinators**. Add native [flowers](#) and [trees](#) wherever you can and remove [invasives](#) whenever possible. Plant groupings of flowering plants that bloom from early spring through the end of fall. Include host plants for caterpillars, because if you don't feed the caterpillars, you will likely not have butterflies. (Herbs are great for this!) Limit the use of pesticides. (Again, let's not kill the pollinators.) With a healthy garden and the appropriate species of plants, things pretty much fall into place. Pollinators love scent and color. Butterflies are attracted to pink, purple, orange, red, and yellow while bees are attracted to blue, purple, and violet.

The **cottage garden** has returned with roses, lilacs, and hydrangeas in soft hues- all thanks to a popular Netflix series. I'm wondering where it went in the first place. True English cottage gardens are wild and diverse, interplanted with herbs, vegetables, and fruits. They celebrate chaos with color. Broccoli and Kale are stunning with Nasturtium and Chamomile. Red lettuces or basil make quite an attractive border. Roses love tomatoes! Let beans run on a trellis. Use your imagination and

don't fuss, the possibilities are endless. Once established, your cottage garden can thrive with minimal care. Here are the top ten [plants](#) to attract pollinators to your cottage garden in zone five.

**Cutting gardens** have become quite popular. When preparing your space, don't forget to test your soil, test kits are available from the Extension Office. A few of zone five favorite flowers for sun and shade can be found [here](#) with tips.

**Xeriscaping**, What a great word! Creating water-efficient gardens. Well, HELLO!

Most people associate this with the gardens of Arizona and New Mexico, but a balanced landscape uses water efficiently and can cope with drought to minimize water waste. Experts say the best way to minimize water use is to reduce the size of your lawn and plant natives.

**Tapestry lawns** typically grow at about 4", and once established will need little maintenance... and they're "trending" now. They're a pollinator-friendly option which requires much less work than a typical turf lawn. Last year Americans spent \$30 billion dollars on turf grass, used an enormous amount of valuable water resources and polluted the earth with chemicals fertilizing their lawns. Turf grass was the number one irrigated crop, covering 40 million acres in the United States. Manicured lawns may soon become a thing of the past as homeowners are opting for lower maintenance [tapestry lawns](#).

Whatever you decide to add to your garden this year, have fun and enjoy your piece of earth.

**"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."**

— Lady Bird Johnson, *First Lady*, and wildflower advocate.



Color of the Year



Tapestry Grass



The Author's Garden





**Tram Tour of the Chicago Botanic Garden,  
Hot Buffet Lunch and Shopping in Lake Forest**

**Monday, June 19, 2023**

- ◆ 2.3-mile 35-minute narrated tram tour. Learn the history and science of the Garden while viewing highlights including the McDonald Woods, the Elizabeth Hubert Malott Japanese Garden, the Learning Campus and others.
- ◆ Enjoy views alongside the Garden's 81 acres of water!
- ◆ We'll have a hot gourmet luncheon in the Pullman Room and have more time to walk the garden, ending up at the visitor center to look around before we depart for Lake Forest for shopping.
- ◆ We depart the Highcrest Centre parking lot at 8:00 am and arrive back in Rockford about 6:00 pm.
- ◆ Cost is \$135 per person; includes tram tour, luncheon and transportation. Call or email for reservations at 815.398.1454 or [CanterburyTours@Comcast.Net](mailto:CanterburyTours@Comcast.Net).

Canterbury Tours

Highcrest Centre

1662 N. Alpine Road

Rockford, IL 61107

815.398.1454 or cell 815.721.5944

Email: [CanterburyTours@Comcast.Net](mailto:CanterburyTours@Comcast.Net)

Web Site: [CanterburyToursRockford.Com](http://CanterburyToursRockford.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](mailto:cdy1ritt@gmail.com) or phone: 815-540-5876.**



# MARCH 6, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Mary Ann Miller, Treasurer

**Balance as of** October 31, 2022 ..... \$10,645.49  
**Receipts:** November (t-shirt reimbursement) ..... 23.50  
Dec-Feb: None..... 00.00  
**Total Receipts** ..... **\$23.50**



## Disbursements:

November – Diane Donze – Habitat Planters.... (\$158.73)  
December – Xcelerators, LLC..... (87.00)  
Parkland HOA (Plant sale location)..... (100.00)  
January – Diane Donze – Christmas party supplies  
..... (124.79)  
**Total Disbursements**..... **(\$470.52)**  
**Ending Balance as of** February 23, 2023..... \$10,198.49

## Committee Reports

**Awards – Elaine Parrovecchio** reported that the scholarship recipient was invited here today to receive the scholarship. However, she was not able to attend, so the check was mailed to her.

Elaine thinks we need to have a specific event for the scholarship presentation, and she would also like us to get back to our regular award schedule so that the recipient has the money for the fall semester.

Elaine suggested we could honor a local high school senior with a scholarship since we have enough money in our treasury. We could choose both a high school senior and a college student for scholarships.

**Civic and Conservation – Diane Donze** reported that that we did 3 Habitat for Humanity planters last year.

**Programs – Arch Smith** reported that they are working on the Behr Garden private tours – one in the morning and another in the afternoon. He also said that we may have another fall event and a Christmas event.

**Publicity – Susan Schumacher** had no report.

**Garden Walk – Arch Smith** reported that he has six gardens lined up for the July 5th Garden Walk, and all but one have responded to him. There is a possibility of a 7th garden: one of the churches.

Arch reported that he has ordered counters for this year's Garden Walk. He also suggested that we should consider ordering more signs for the Garden Walk since we are no longer using the older banners. And we could have signs made that tell about the Garden Walk being the first Wednesday after the 4th of July and about joining a garden club. These dual purpose signs could be designed to be permanently hung in our area's major garden centers.

**Horticulture – Yvette DeWispelaere** reported that she has several articles prepared ahead, since she will be having shoulder surgery next week.

**Hospitality – Mary Pinter** first reported that Alice Moczynski will be taking over the Hospitality position and will be notifying council members of the meeting date, time, and location. Mary said that our next meeting will be on April 3, 2023, at 9:30 A.M. back at Mary's Market. Alice will contact members.

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

**Parliamentarian – Sarah Britton** reported that "all is fine."

**Sunshine – Arch Smith** said that **Cindy Rittenhouse** did not have a report. Please notify Cindy Rittenhouse if a card should be sent to a member.

**Ways & Means – Lynne Franzene-Lynde** had no report. She said that if we would like to have a banquet, we would need to have someone step up to chair it. She said that maybe we could do something more fun.

Arch Smith reported that we need to discuss the contributions from CRG. He has suggested garden related organizations as recipients. Discussions will continue in April.

**Website – Kathy Batzkall** reported that she needs someone from each club to go on the website club page and check the description of their club and get back to her. If you need the password, contact her at CRGnews815@gmail.com.

**Next meeting will take place April 3, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at Mary's Market, State St.**

**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](http://www.klehm.org) | 815-965-8146 | [info@klehm.org](mailto:info@klehm.org)

### Springing into Grow-ti-vation! Spring Garden Planning & Seedling Workshop

Saturday, March 18 / 10:00am – 11:30am

Visitors Center Gallery

Cost: \$45/person

### Crocus Watercolor Workshop

Saturday, March 25th / 9:30am – 3:30pm

Visitors Center Classroom

Cost: \$35/person

### Spring Tulip Board Painting

Saturday, April 1st / 10:00am – 12:00pm

Visitors Center Gallery

Cost: \$45/person

### Plant Sale Fundraiser 2023

Virtual shopping: April 7th – May 8th

Plant pick up and in-person shopping: May 12th – May 13th

### Cheerful Cutting Gardens

Saturday, April 8th / 9:30am – 11:00am

Visitors Center Gallery

Cost: \$10/Klehm member; \$20/public

## NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY

1354 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, IL

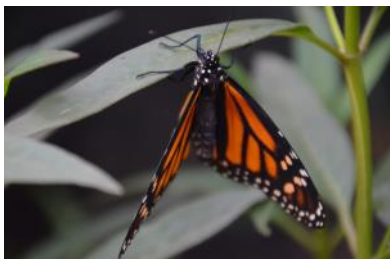
<https://nicholasconservatory.com/>

### SECRET LIFE OF BUTTERFLIES

MARCH 17 - JUNE 4, 2023

Join us to explore the wild, wonderful, and often strange world of butterflies and moths! See the whole lepidoptera lifecycle in action as caterpillars munch on leaves, butterflies emerge from their chrysalis, and moths from their cocoons.

Advanced ticketing is highly recommended. Check status before heading out - Bus tour groups are scheduled during the day and walk-ins may be limited.



## Spring Gardening Series

All classes will be held at Illinois Extension - Winnebago County, 1040 N Second Street, Rockford (815) 986-4357

### STARTING VEGETABLE SEEDS SUCCESSFULLY - \$5

6:00 to 7:30 p.m. - Thursday, March 23

[go.illinois.edu/seedstartingrockford](http://go.illinois.edu/seedstartingrockford)

Grant McCarty, Illinois Extension Local Foods Systems and Small Farms Educator

### VERMICOMPOSTING (composting with worms)

6:00 to 7:30 p.m. - Tuesday, April 11

[go.illinois.edu/Vermicomposting2023](http://go.illinois.edu/Vermicomposting2023)

Constance McCarthy, Illinois Extension Master Gardener

### SPRING INVASIVE AND NUISANCE PLANTS

6:00 to 7:30 p.m. - Thursday, April 20

[go.illinois.edu/Invasives2023](http://go.illinois.edu/Invasives2023)

Jay Solomon, Illinois Extension Natural Resources, Environment & Energy Educator

### ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN

6:00 to 7:30 p.m. - Tuesday, April 25

[go.illinois.edu/Birds2023](http://go.illinois.edu/Birds2023)

Stacey Clark, Illinois Extension Master Naturalist

### NATIVE PLANTS AND PERENNIALS

6:00 to 7:30 p.m. - Wednesday, May 10

[go.illinois.edu/NativePlantsandPerennials](http://go.illinois.edu/NativePlantsandPerennials)

Julie Thomas, Illinois Extension Master Gardener

## ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

318 Spring Creek Road

Rockford, Illinois 61107

<https://andersongardens.org/>

### Introduction to Ikebana

Thursday, May 4th | 2:00 PM | Visitors Center Gallery

Tuesday, May, 23rd | 5:30 PM | Visitors Center Gallery

Cost: \$40 Members | \$45 Non-Members per class. Includes flower materials. Space is limited and registration is required.