

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

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Editor: Kathy Batzkall



JUNE 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

Email editor:

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

First, a big "thank you" goes out to all those who were able to volunteer at the CRG's information booth at Klehm's Garden Fair. I have already received four or five requests for information pertaining to joining a club and our annual Free Garden Walk. All requests mention the Garden Fair; clearly our booth helps promote all things CRG!

This year's Garden Walk is fast approaching. I have all the Garden Reps lined up. A special "Thanks" to Mary Ann Miller/Susan Schmitz, Susan Buzzard/Susan Schumacher, Lynne Franzene-Lynde/ Deb Jurs, Pat Wengrow/Bob Shaw and Cindy Rittenhouse/ Arch Smith for volunteering as Garden Reps. If any of you are available to be a greeter, please contact one of the above names. Your help is greatly needed to make this 40-year tradition a huge success.

Susan Schmitz is graciously again coordinating CRG's project: the Wednesday volunteers for the Rock River Food Pantry starting July 12th and continuing through September 27th. Times are from 1pm to 4pm. Please help Susan out by working a shift or two if you are able.

Dr. Jeff and Diane Behr are opening their spectacular garden on July 15th to all CRG members and guests. Let's please have a great turnout to show them our appreciation. See further information on page 4 of this newsletter.

CRG has so very much to be proud of with all the good we do in our community to help promote the joy and love of gardening. Recently at the Garden Clubs of Illinois (GCI) Convention our own Kathy Batzkall was honored with an award for "Best Newsletter" and our Garden Walk committee was also honored with an award for "Best Garden Walk in Illinois". So very much to be proud of, but most of all we should be proud of what a great group of clubs and individuals that make the Council of Rockford Gardeners so special!

In closing, please remember:

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”

-Audrey Hepburn

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

GARDEN CLUB OUTINGS

June
2023

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SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



Seedlings enjoyed a program on companion planting presented by Jenny at The Farm Store. Members bought plants and arranged them in planters.



L-R: Kathy Crandall, guest-Nancy Taylor, Lora Prochaska, Amy Seiler

Plantaholics toured Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden where Mark Dwyer is the garden manager and designer. What an inspirational and knowledgeable person to have as our tour guide! You may remember him as the manager at Rotary Gardens.

*The Healing Garden is located at
11101 North Sherman Road
Edgerton, Wisconsin*



More Plantaholics photos page 6

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS GARDEN WALK—JULY 5

1. Bev and Ken Larson

2540 Bordeaux Drive, Rockford

Our house was a new construction model home built in 1964 and the lot was basically a blank slate. Our gardening knowledge and our perennial beds have grown and evolved over the past sixty years living here. Peonies and irises came from my parent's yard. I've divided and moved plants several times and each spring dig out a little more sod! Digging in the dirt, watching stuff grow, expanding and adding beds — these have become passions. There's a large glacial rock nestled in the bed of pachysandra and euonymus to the right of the sidewalk. To the left is a Crimson King maple tree surrounded by a large brick bed of perennials. A birdbath and cement bench accent our front area. Ken built an arbor for my clematis and to provide a focal point.

2. Arch Smith and Charlie Refol

2541 Bordeaux Drive, Rockford

Country charm in the midst of the city is what this garden strives to offer. The front yard of our garden was started by the original owners with mostly ground covers and some shrubbery. Charlie and I had no gardening experience but over the past twelve years, we transformed the front by adding a multitude of plants for more color and interest. We also took a barren back yard, established all the beds, and added countless plants to create a peaceful, tranquil setting. Adorned with many mature trees surrounding our rustic home it became most suitable for a variety of shade plants. Many species of hosta, coral bells, ferns, and other plants cover the large beds encompassing our home. The garden has numerous water features, from various fountains to a small koi pond with a waterfall. Dozens of Asian statues are scattered throughout the beds. A pair of majestic lions watches over the front flower beds, while matching Japanese Foo Dogs grace the entrance to the gazebo in the back corner of the property.

3. Ginny and Wayne Hatwich

5917 Shelford Lane, Rockford

Since we moved here in 1989, we created several of the garden's features: a terraced kitchen garden, the covered pergola walkway, and the perennial beds northeast of the house. Large tree canopies north and south of the house create dappled partial shade. For visual interest, we added hardscape, sculptures, and other non-plant items. There are four main gardens: the sunny front yard garden outlined by three weeping trees; the covered pergola walkway with clematis and hanging baskets; the terraced vegetable kitchen garden; and the spacious backyard berms. The plant collection is entirely eclectic — we've learned what will grow and survive our particular combination of care and neglect. The perennials are ever evolving; we try to attract birds, bees, and butterflies.

4. Steve and Judy Penticoff

4779 Treeview Terrace, Rockford

Our garden began twenty-five years ago, a few weeks after we moved into our house, when a cherry tree fell on the roof. Little did we know that it would start a chain of events that created in us a mutual gardening obsession. Our wooded lot, with a creek passing through it, offered unique terracing opportunities. We created the bones of the garden with rock walls and built a bridge over the creek. We created various garden rooms that have continually evolved. Our mostly shade garden contains many specialty trees that anchor the property. We are active members of the American Conifer Society and have collected diverse specimens throughout our travels. Our perennial beds rely on colorful foliage including many varieties of heuchera, hosta, brunnera, and ferns. Our sunny beds have morphed from mostly roses to a mix of shrubs and hardy perennials.

5. Carole-Anne Stewart

272 Club House Drive, Cherry Valley

My new 2009 house was a blank canvas, inside and out. The only house on the street. New construction had halted due to the economy. There was just seeded grass; not a patio, berm, edged bedding, tree, or scrub.

At this time, back in England, I also lost both parents.

My mother loved color; wearing it and in her garden. So, when I went to plan my garden, it was in part a tribute to her. There are roses, coneflowers, bee balm, false indigo, dahlias, black-eyed Susans, Asiatic lilies, and more. Also, I have built a relaxing patio and observe not only the golfers, but the wildlife attracted to the indigenous plantings. The butterflies, finches, and hummingbirds are such fun to watch. And although restrictions forbid fences, I have been able to create my own little tranquil area of privacy with strategically placed trees of river birch, magnolias, lilac standards, Colorado spruce, and fountain beech.

6. Mike and Pam Carr

3829 Thistledown Court, Cherry Valley

The Carr Gardens are a perennial delight, with two homes adjoined by lovely gardens amassing thousands of plants. Mike and Pam started their gardens here back in 2016, and began Hugo's Hosta Haven in 2020. Over 15,000 hostas and a show garden of hundreds of hostas and colorful perennials. Pam has added all the color with peonies and tree peonies as well as many varieties of daylilies, iris, roses, and numerous other specialty perennials. There are also plenty of beautiful trees, conifers, and accent bushes and plants that make this yard one you won't want to miss.

If you are in need of that special hosta, save this destination for last and do a little shopping. We will have every size, color, and shape hosta you will need to round out your gardens.

CRG Presents The Behr Garden



Private Narrated Tour

June 15th, 1 or 5:30 p.m.

1631 National Avenue

Rockford

A transformative gift for plant science

<https://www.chicagobotanic.org/research>

The Chicago Botanic Garden was recently honored to receive the largest single gift in its history—\$21 million from The Negaunee Foundation to advance plant conservation science and restoration. This gift is among the largest of its kind to a botanic garden in the United States.

With this generous support, the Chicago Botanic scientists will be able to curate and continue building world-class seed and pollen banks, help prevent the loss of genetic diversity in botanic garden collections, and train new conservation scientists.

The nonprofit Negaunee Foundation, based in Northbrook, Ill., is known for its philanthropic support of important work at Chicago-area cultural institutions, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Field Museum, and Ravinia.

Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake Cook Road,
Glencoe, IL, 60022 U.S.



BAREFOOTIN'

By Yvette DeWisleare,

Guest contributor and University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County

As I sit barefoot in my yard with the dog, listening to the birds singing and preparing for the season with choruses to each other, there's a bit of anticipation in the air, forecasting what's to come. The garden is quickly showing its glory this spring. I'm blessed again with the chaos of another season of gardening, volunteering, and love.

Summer is coming quickly. I'm a barefoot girl at heart. Going barefoot isn't just good for your soul, it grounds you to the earth. It's like taking a handful of antioxidants through your feet. Literally. There is a special energy we connect with present in the ground, because the earth is a big electrical battery. The electromagnetic energy is believed to be very healing. Studies show that walking barefoot in the grass for just 30 minutes a day can reduce pain, inflammation, and stress while increasing serotonin. It's especially effective first thing in the morning, helping improve mood and activating the nervous system.

Here's what happens: walking barefoot puts pressure on your second and third toe and the science of reflexology helps with your vision. Doing it first thing in the morning, gives you a good dose of vitamin D! Studies also suggest walking barefoot helps synchronize the beat of your heart which will help regulate your body temperature and help with hormone secretion. When your heart is regulated, the other organs function better.

When my daughter was a baby, I loved to walk to the park on crisp autumn mornings and lay on a blanket so she could soak up the sunshine. The end of last summer, while attending an outdoor

concert. When we sat down, she was having severe peripheral neuropathy. The pain was so intense she could barely feel her feet. I told her to take off her shoes and she looked at me like I was nuts. We were in a clean, grassy area and it was the first night of the festival. She did as I asked, and within minutes her pain had was gone. Before the end of the concert, she was up and dancing!

Kick off your shoes, and enjoy your garden this summer.

June Tasks - Zone 5

1. As planting season begins, think about how you will water your garden, remember to water deeply from the bottom. Give your plants a good long drink.
2. Get rid of any standing water that is present in your yard where mosquitoes would lay eggs.
3. Clean birdbaths and feeders – and make sure our feathered friends feel welcome.
4. Be sure to mulch cool season crops at the roots so they avoid bolting.
5. Divide any perennials or move anything you want to NOW.
6. Empty your compost pile and give everything a good dressing and MULCH.

dreamstime

GARDEN CLUB NEWS AND ADVENTURES

Plantaholics Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden tour continued from page 2...



Pollinator "motel"



Pottawatomie Garden Club of St. Charles

Garden Walk

Visit SIX Glorious Gardens & The Garden Gate Boutique

Garden Lifestyles!

BUY TICKETS AT:

- Heinz Brothers Greenhouse & Garden Center
- Countryside Flower Shop & Nursery (formerly Shady Hill)
- Grow Geneva
- Scentimental Gardens
- SG Too
- Town House Books & Café
- Trellis Farm & Garden
- Wasco Nursery & Garden Center

Saturday, June 24, 2023 • 9am to 3pm

~ PottaGardenClub.org ~

\$20 pre sale or \$25 day of walk

JUNE 5, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Mary Ann Miller, Treasurer

Balance as of May 1, 2023 \$ 9,645.47
Receipts: None 00.00
Disbursements: None 00.00
Ending Balance as of May 31, 2023..... \$ 9,645.47



Committee Reports

Awards – Elaine Parrovecchio had no report.

Civic and Conservation – Diane Donze reported to Arch that she will have a new contact with the Habitat for Humanity organization.

Publicity – Susan Schumacher presented the certificates and check from the awards that were received at the State Convention.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith reported that six gardens will be featured this year. The publicity that Arch is doing for the garden walk: radio interview; Rock River Times article; billboard; laminated posters. The QR code required upgrading due to the limited use for the free code. This will amount to \$12 for the months of June and July.

Volunteers are reminded to wear their CRG t-shirts.

Horticulture – No report

Hospitality – Alice Moczynski reported that a short meeting will be held on July 3rd.

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 reported that Cindy Rittenhouse sent a card to Sherry Seaver after she had shoulder surgery.

Ways & Means – Lynne Franzene-Lynde: No report.

Website – Kathy Batzkall reported that there is no news regarding the website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Rock River Valley Food Pantry needs volunteers in their garden Wednesdays, 1 - 4 p.m. Susan Schmitz coordinates.

NEW BUSINESS: Lori Walsh started discussion regarding donations to Klehm. The following donations were voted on and approved:

\$400 - Vi Bates Wildflower Garden

\$400 - demonstration gardens

\$400 - Conifer garden

Next meeting will take place July 3, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Location will be emailed by Alice Moczynski.

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

Big Bugs: The Pollinators

June 10th to September 10th, 2023.

10 larger-than-life sculptures made of reclaimed forest wood and other natural materials. This one-of-a-kind exhibit is included with daily admission to Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden.



The Buzz on Honey Bees

June 17 | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

FREE with paid daily admission

FREE for Klehm members

Kick off **National Pollinator Week** at Klehm with Raines Honey Farm and learn the buzz about one of the most influential insects in history – the honey bee!

Learn more about honey bees and the benefits of honey, ranging from cooking to skin care.

MIDWAY VILLAGE

6799 Guilford Road, Rockford IL

MidwayVillage.com

Free Admission Days for Self-Guided Tours of Main Museum Center: Wednesday, June 14th, Saturday, June 17 and Tuesday, June 20th: 10am - 4pm.

Regular rates for Victorian Village Guided Tours \$11
Adults • \$9 Child (ages 5-12) • \$10 Senior (62+)

NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY

1354 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, IL

<https://nicholasconservatory.com/>

FOOD TRUCK TUESDAYS

Tuesdays, through October 24, 4:00 PM

Each week on Tuesdays, come enjoy tasty eats from local food trucks, while soaking in the beauty of the gardens!

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

318 Spring Creek Road

Rockford, Illinois 61107

<https://andersongardens.org/>

Introduction to Ikebana

Thursday, June 15th | 2:00 PM | Visitors Center Gallery

Cost: \$40 Members

Members | \$45 Non-

Members per

class. Includes

flower materials.

Space is limited

and registration is

required.



Donation Day

Donation Day is the third Thursday of each month. Admission fees are waived on the following dates: May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19.

In lieu of admission, guests are encouraged to make donations to help maintain the Garden to world-class quality standards.

Japanese Summer Festival

A Celebration of Traditional Cultural Arts. Save the dates! Saturday and Sunday, July 29 and July 30.

Tea Ceremonies: See website for reserving time.

Japanese Summer Festival

