

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V 8 Issue 6
Editor: Kathy Batzkall



JULY 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

It's hard to believe another Garden Walk has come and gone. For over 40 years the Council of Rockford Gardeners has been successfully hosting the award winning, "Best Garden Walk in Illinois." This "Rain or Shine" event has hosted collectively over 25,000 visitors to approximately 240 spectacular private gardens over the years. And a little rain has never dampened our spirits.

None of this would be possible without the countless CRG members volunteering to assure our Annual Free Garden Walk is the gardening event of the year! A very special "Thank You" goes out to all the garden owners, garden reps, greeters and our dedicated sponsors. We should all be extremely proud to be a part of an organization that truly puts service above self.

Work is already underway preparing for CRG's Annual Free Garden Walk 2024 to be held on Wednesday, July 10. If any member has a garden or knows of a garden that would possibly be worthy for a future Garden Walk, please let me know. Even if you happen to pass a beautiful garden while out and about, get me an address and I'm certainly not shy and will just knock on their door. Just think of yourselves as part of CRG's Garden Patrol! Again, thanks to all of you for all you do to make this and all of our CRG's events successful!

On another note, our Program Committee has plans underway for another "Fall Frolic" dedication night to be held at a new and exciting venue this September on Tuesday the 12th, more details to come. (Thank you Mary Jo and Steve Hull for securing the venue.) The Program committee is solidifying plans for another "Spirits and Sparkle" Christmas event to be held in early December. And finally, the Jeff and Diane Behr garden tour was such a huge success with over 60 visitors for each of the two tours—120 total—that it has been decided to make a similar "Gathering of Clubs" outing an annual event. I have a few gardens in mind to try for next year. Stay tuned for some more exciting CRG activities!

Our membership is growing, our presence in the gardening community is forever expanding, so let's continue moving CRG forward in the same tradition that preceded us over the last 40 plus years!

In closing, please remember,

“Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years”

- Author unknown

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

GARDEN CLUB ADVENTURES

July
2023

In This Issue:

P1
*Club Information;
President's Pen*

P2
*Wildflower
Adventures*

P3
*Wildflower
Adventures*

P4
*2023 CRG Garden
Walk photos*

P5
CRG in the News

P6
Seedlings gathering

P7
*"Framers and Farmers
- Our Founding Fathers*

P 8
*Dr. Behr Garden
Tour*

P 9
*July Council
Meeting Minutes*

P10
Public Garden Events

SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



Wildflower members on their May trip to shop and tour the gardens at Steel Heart in Harvard. (The editor apologizes for getting these photos in late.)

See Wildflower June photos on page 3.





www.CouncilofRockfordGardeners.org

Garden Search

If you have a garden or know someone who has a garden and wishes to be on the Council of Rockford Gardeners FREE Garden Walk, please see the website for contact information.

MORE GARDEN CLUB ADVENTURES

The **Wildflower Garden Club's** June adventure included a trip to Nature at the Confluence in South Beloit for the Monarch Magic program.

<https://natureattheconfluence.com/>



CRG GARDEN WALK—JULY 5, 2023

A few dark clouds and light sprinkles didn't stop our garden walk!



CRG IN THE NEWS

June 18, 2013
Vol. 41, No. 5
RockRiverTimes.com

The Rock River Times.



Council of Rockford Gardeners holds Annual Free Garden Walk

FROM COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS
The Council of Rockford Gardeners will be having its Annual Free Garden Walk on Wednesday, July 3 from 9-11 a.m. This event has been a garden enthusiast tradition for over 40 years. Through the years approximately 100 gardens have been featured on the Council's annual Free Garden Walk, attracting about 10,000 visitors. Recently, the Council of Rockford Gardeners was awarded "Best Garden Walk" in Illinois by the Gardeners of Illinois.

An always, this is a "free or almost-free" event. This year the Council will be featuring 10 featured area gardens (2 of which are on Cherry Valley) for the public to view at their leisure. Each garden is completely different with much to see and admire. All the gardens are at one party which makes it convenient. The Council's Annual Free Garden Walk is a great outing for all ages to enjoy.

The first two gardens are already across the street from each other. The featured garden started from scratch nearly 40 years ago in 1974. The garden has been expanded to now its own and will be growing together. The garden is a variety of use and shade gardens. Many of the plants originally come from these gardeners' gardens. Everything has been and is still done mainly by the ladies, they are 100% volunteer-run gardeners.

For more information on the featured gardens, please visit our website at www.crockfordgardeners.com or contact us at 815-998-1111. The garden is a great example of "best practices" for gardeners who are interested in learning more about garden design and maintenance. The garden is a great example of "best practices" for gardeners who are interested in learning more about garden design and maintenance. The garden is a great example of "best practices" for gardeners who are interested in learning more about garden design and maintenance.

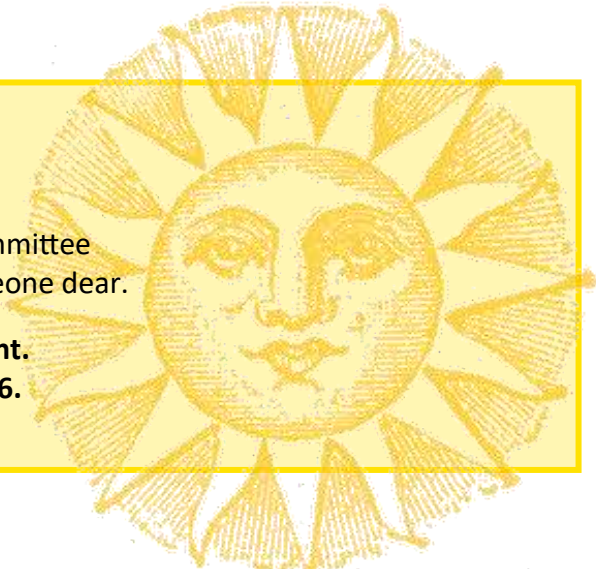


Steve Summers of Mid-West Family Broadcasting (radio) and Arch Smith. Arch did a radio interview which featured the Garden Walk.

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 or phone: 815-540-5876.



MORE GARDEN CLUB ADVENTURES

Seedlings members met at Fiona Fordyce's garden in June.



FRAMERS AND FARMERS - OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

By Yvette DeWisleare,

University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." - Preamble to the United States Constitution

The framers of the Constitution consisted of a committee of five, representing each section of the Colonies: two New England men, John Adams of Massachusetts, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut; two men from the Middle Colonies, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, and Robert R. Livingston of New York; and one southerner, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. Written primarily by Thomas Jefferson in six weeks during a balmy Philadelphia summer in 1787, they clearly communicated their intentions and purpose of the document in the 52-word paragraph, and agreed on the basic principles that hold true today "Establish Justice" is the first of five objectives outlined in the introduction to the Nation's fundamental law.

On April 30, 1789, from New York's Federal Hall on Wall Street, George Washington took the oath of office as the first President of the United States. "As the first of everything, in our situation will serve to establish a Precedent," he wrote James Madison, "it is devoutly wished on my part, that these precedents may be fixed on true principles."

Born to a Virginia planter family, George Washington surveyed the Shenandoah lands at age 16, had a prominent Military career, and inherited the estate of Mount Vernon, built in 1735 from his father, Augustine Washington in 1759. Overlooking the Potomac River, eight miles from Alexandria, the original home began as a one and one-half story house and grew to two and a half stories with 21 rooms and 11,028 sq. ft. The land expands 8,000 acres with four gardens including: The Lower Garden, which is a kitchen garden, The Upper Garden

to entertain guests, The Greenhouse where tropical plants are grown all year, and The Botanical Garden located behind the spinning house where Mr. Washington tested potential crops and plants from around the world. There is a functioning distillery and a gristmill.

John Adams, the first resident of the White House, wanted a vegetable garden plowed and fertilized with the goal of planting in the spring of 1800. By the time the ground was ready for planting, Adams had returned to private life after Thomas Jefferson's victory in the 1800 presidential election. His private home is open to the public.

Monticello, the 5000- acre estate formerly known as Shadwell was Jefferson's primary residence, retreating to the privacy of the 4800-acre estate of Poplar Forest for vacations, which he inherited from his father-in-law. He built the first octagonal house in the United States on the property. The Neoclassical design for the building reflects Jefferson's expertise in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and Newtonian calculus, he was a gifted self-taught Architect.

America's third president grew 330 varieties of 89 species of vegetables and herbs in his terrace garden on Monticello's mountainside as well as 170 varieties of fruit in his orchards and vineyards which were carefully recorded their cultivation in his Garden Book, from 1766 to 1824. Jefferson persevered possibly with more failures in agriculture and his crop ledger is noted with word such as "failed," "failed nearly" and "killed by bug." Mainly growing tobacco and wheat for cash, his greatest contribution to farming was crop rotation, devising a seven-year plan to renew depleted soil.

***"but tho' an old man,
I am but a young gardener."***

- Thomas Jefferson to Charles Wilson Peale,
August 20, 1811

COUNCIL VISIT TO DR. AND MRS. BEHR'S GARDEN



The garden tour of Jeff and Diane Behr's garden on June 15th was a huge success with over 60 CRG members and guests for each of the two tours.



JULY 3, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Mary Ann Miller, Treasurer



Balance as of June 1, 2023 \$ 9,645.47
Receipts: GCI Award for Best Garden Walk25.00
Disbursements: Klehm Arboretum
(\$400 each to 3 gardens) 1,200.00
Ending Balance as of May 31, 2023\$ 8,470.47

Committee Reports

Awards – Elaine Parrovecchio had no report.

Civic and Conservation – Diane Donze had no report.

Publicity – Arch reported that he had a radio interview with Steve Summers, and Arch also put an article in the Rock River Times about the Garden Walk.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith reported that he will continue as chair of the Garden Walk for next year and is working on lining up gardens for next year. He has several possible gardens to view.

Horticulture – Arch has talked to several people about the position, and **Pat Bellezza** has agreed to do it if she shares the position with another person since Pat B. is gone so much in the winter.

Pat Wengrow said she would be happy to be part of the Horticulture position. Mary Ann Miller suggested that the Horticulture chairperson could “pull an article” from elsewhere if she didn’t want to write an article each month. She said that she receives a monthly newsletter from Klein’s Greenhouse in Madison, and it has very interesting information. Mary Ann said that she will check with Klein’s to see if that was ok.

Hospitality – Alice Moczynski reported that we do not have a meeting in August. The first Monday in September is Labor Day, so our next meeting will be on Monday, September 11.

Newsletter – No report, but the deadline for sending any photos or stories to **Kathy Batzkall** is Friday.

Parliamentarian – Sarah Britton reported that we are doing pretty good with the few who are here today.

Sunshine – No report. Let **Cindy Rittenhouse** know if a card should be sent to a member.

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

Website – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Susan Schumacher wanted to let members know that she went to the District I Garden Stroll in June. The tour included gardens, vegetable farm stands, cut flower gardens, and Steel Heart in Harvard. She said that it was worth doing.

Next meeting will take place Monday, September 11, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Location will be emailed by Alice Moczynski.

All garden club members are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Duncan, Secretary

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.



Bees, Birds, Bats & Butterflies...Oh My!

Saturday, July 15th, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Discover how you can attract pollinators to your garden and help them thrive. Presented by Lisa Hinzman Howard, author, speaker and consultant.

FREE with daily admission. FREE for Klehm members! Registration is recommended.

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/>

Cultivating Culture

July 1 - November 5, 2023

See the conservatory through the eyes of seven local residents who represent different cultures. In the exhibition area you may follow the participants by reading more about how they relate to the plants through stories, recipes, and sounds.



ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

318 Spring Creek Road | Rockford, Illinois 61107

<https://andersongardens.org/>

Donation Day

Donation Day is the third Thursday of each month. Admission fees are waived on the following dates: July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19. In lieu of admission, guests are encouraged to make donations.

Japanese Summer Festival: A Celebration of Traditional Cultural Arts.

Saturday and Sunday, July 29 and July 30.

Festival activities are included with garden admission, advanced registration and additional fee required for tea ceremony participation. Register for tea ceremony at <https://andersongardens.org/japanese-summer-festival/>

