

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

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Editor: Kathy Batzkall

NOVEMBER 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

When we think of November, we usually ponder thoughts of what we are thankful for. We have all been blessed with so much in life, such as loving families, close friendships, loyal pets just to name a few. We should also be thankful for having a great organization such as the Council of Rockford Gardeners and its four clubs: Plantaholics, Potpourri, Seedlings and Wildflowers.

As we look back at this past year, we really have accomplished so much. I hope I can speak for everyone when I say, I think we had a great time as well. CRG has quietly given so much to the Rockford area community. Rockford has a rich history in horticulture and for over 40 years we have been fortunate enough to be a huge part of that.

As we all attend our selected club's November planning meetings, it's wonderful to see all the excitement for the coming year. Lots of fresh ideas, various members stepping up to host an event and just the overall sense of optimism for the coming year.

As I reflect, I have about 130 reasons to be thankful and those reasons are each one of you! "You" make CRG what it is by all your support, encouragement and willingness to volunteer. As they say, organizations are only as good as its membership. This is definitely true when it comes to CRG. It's great being involved with an organization that offers so much talent and dedication.

CRG welcomes all of you to join us at our monthly Council breakfast meetings held the first Monday of each month at Mary's Market. The Council is always open to new ideas and your participation. The March Installation of Officers and Scholarship Luncheon to be held at Tavern on Clark is a perfect place to start! The Council encourages every member to attend. This Thanksgiving and every day be thankful for all the blessing we have each been given.

In closing, please remember: "Let us be thankful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." - Marcel Proust

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

CRG GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES

November
2023

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SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



Seedlings Garden Club October 16th. Photo by Kristin Frank.

The meeting at Lynne's house entailed using chairs as plant holders and potting up a container for an outdoor fall decoration.



**Ginny Hatwich,
Plantaholics**

Ginny was a featured artist in a three-person show at Emmanuel Episcopal Friday, November 3. All Plantaholics who attended were delighted to see Ginny's artwork, impressed with the quality, and appreciative of the creative detail. Featured were a collection of totems (see photo) that are designed to be garden sculptures.

We are proud of you, Ginny!

CRG GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES

Wildflower trip October 26 to the Mitchell Domes and Maders Restaurant in Milwaukee.

Photos by Jan Duncan



ORCHIDS

Pat Belezza, Wildflower member and Horticulture Co-chair

Over the years, I have distantly admired orchids. My mother used to raise them and I always loved their exotic blooms. I never considered growing them myself, thinking they were complicated and time consuming to raise. Boy was I wrong! Last fall Jerry gave me an orchid, and since I hate to let plants just die, I felt obligated to keep the darn thing alive. YouTube turned out to have many videos on orchid care, and I condensed it all down. Orchids have a few basic needs and once these are met they are simple to care for. Now, all I do is water once a week and done!

Moth orchids (phalenopsis) are the easiest to grow and commonly found. Home Depot sold them all summer two for \$15—already planted in orchid bark in plastic pots with lots of drain holes.

Discard any outer pot and place the plastic pot in a saucer to catch drips. Moth orchids are epiphytes and live on the barks of trees so good drainage is essential. Water them only when a finger into the bark tells you they are dry. I water mine once a week. I put the plant into a large bowl and pour warm water (with fertilizer added every couple of weeks) through the pot two times, letting it drip dry before replacing the pot back into its tray. They like light but not direct sun.

Mine are in an east-facing window that only gets a couple of hours of sun. (Sunburn spots on the leaves tell you to move them back from the window some.) Normal room temperatures are

fine, just don't place them next to a heat/air vent. They like humidity like all house plants. I increase the humidity for mine by placing several plastic containers of water near the plants (I have 18 now), but you can mist your plants with water every few days or set your plant's saucer on a tray of pebbles dampened with water. Don't keep water against the bottom of the plant's plastic pot. I don't care what the tag on the plant says, **DON'T PUT ICE CUBES ON THE ROOTS OF A TROPICAL PLANT!**

Grocery store bouquets cost as much as an orchid plant and only last a week. My orchids have all kept their blooms longer than 6 months! Even if you only keep the plant until it stops blooming, it's a bargain! Try one! You will be pleasantly surprised! When you become addicted like me, there are lots of sources of further information on YouTube or the internet.





BE THANKFUL

By Yvette DeWislepeare,

Guest writer, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener, Winnebago County

The phone rang at 3:30 am Sunday morning. There was a steady, female voice asking me to come to the hospital as quickly as possible, because my dad had been in an accident. I hung up the phone as mom came out of her bedroom... When Mom and I walked into the ER at Swedish American Hospital on that snowy morning in November, we were asked to wait... for what seemed like an eternity. The small, dark room adjacent to the waiting room was all too familiar. We'd been there earlier in the summer for another family member who'd been in a car accident. Waiting. A petite woman with blonde hair and glasses came on to deliver the news... chest crushing injuries, lacerations to the face, severed leg... He died instantly, without time to react. The other driver, drunk, crossed the center line. She handed me his identification as Mom crumbled into the chair. I was completely numb. It was the beginning of the worst Thanksgiving week of my life. It haunts me to this day.

Thanksgiving is celebrated in the United States to honor our heritage. We give thanks for bountiful harvests, family, and friends by gathering around our table with food and drink.

George Washington was the first President to proclaim "a Publik Day of Thanksgiving," naming Thursday, November 26, 1789, as Thanksgiving Day. In 1801, Thomas Jefferson refused to proclaim a day of Thanksgiving, as it supported Puritan values thus not separating Church and State.

With the approach of the Civil War, Sarah Josepha Hale lobbied President Lincoln for a day of Thanksgiving and he declared the following: "I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise..."

Thanksgiving was moved to the fourth Thursday of November... "For such blessings let us be devoutly thankful, and at the same time let us be sensitive and responsive to the obligations which such great mercies entail... which designates the fourth Thursday in November of each year as Thanksgiving Day, do hereby call upon our people to observe ... On that day let all of us, in accordance with our hallowed custom, foregather in our respective places of worship or in our homes and offer up prayers of thanks for our manifold blessings." - Dwight D. Eisenhower-1957

The first Harvest Feast was celebrated between the Plymouth Colonists and the Wampanoag Native American people in 1621, most likely the end of September or early October, the Natives outnumbered the surviving colonists

two to one, and the feast lasted three days. There are two historical records of the first Thanksgiving: "Mourt's Relation," written by Plymouth Governor Edward Winslow and "others," and "Of Plimouth Plantation" written by William Bradford.

Thanks to the Wampanoag tribe, the Plymouth Pilgrims were able to grow vegetables such as beans, cabbage, carrots, corn, lettuce, onions, spinach, squashes, and likely peas. Records show flint corn was plentiful at the first harvest and was likely served as mush or porridge and sweetened with molasses, as the sacks of sugar that traveled from England were likely depleted. Fruits native to the area included blueberries, cranberries (used for dye and medicinal purposes), gooseberries, grapes, and raspberries.

Four men were sent "fowling" by the governor, William Bradford as noted in the journal of Edward Winslow There were stores of wild turkeys, venison, ducks, geese, and swans, which were likely on the menu. The meat dressing (stuffing) would have been herbs, nuts, and onions instead of a bread-base. Food historians suggest Lobster and seal were also likely on the menu as well as cod and mussels.

The Wampanoag arrived with an offering of five deer, which would have been cooked over an open fire on a spit, and then turned into a hearty stew with the bounty of vegetables they'd harvested. Contrary to popular belief, and the American Pie Council, pies were not served. Pumpkins and squash were hallowed then filled with spices, honey, and milk, then cooked in the coals of the fire which makes a custard-like filling. I have a similar recipe from an early American cookbook which was rumored to be a favorite of George Washington. On Thanksgiving, one in eight Americans won't have enough to eat, according to the U.S. Census in 2020, another survey from the Washington Post states those numbers are increasing. A USDA study shows lower food security is linked to a higher probability of developing asthma, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, hepatitis, and kidney disease. There are several places in need of food, especially during the Holidays. Please Give.

Last year, the phone rang just after 4:00 am on Thanksgiving morning... my son was on the phone asking us to come to the hospital... Swedish American. I always catch my breath when the phone rings in the middle of the night.

"Could you bring some mashed potatoes for Rae? The baby arrived and she's hungry." After a very long and intense labor our Granddaughter Emma Lee arrived, perfectly healthy! I put on Dad's hat and delivered food to my son and daughter-in-law and held my new granddaughter. We are blessed, and truly thankful.

DISTRICT 1 FALL LUNCHEON AT STRONGHOLD CASTLE, OREGON, ILLINOIS



District 1 Fall Luncheon at Stronghold Castle.



Tyler Hagemann, of Hagemann Horticulture in Oregon, was the District 1 Fall Luncheon Speaker.



CRG's raffle donation by Lynne Franzene-Lynde.



Club presidents attending the luncheon.

NOVEMBER 6, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by **Mary Ann Miller**, Treasurer;

Balance as of October 1, 2023 **\$8,440.99**
Receipts:
None 00.00

Disbursements
Kathy Batzkall\$ 5.21
Midland Bank – Analysis charge 3.00
Diane Donze 70.20
Ending Balance as of October 31, 2023..... \$8,362.58

Committee Reports

Awards – Elaine Parrovecchio reported she has been in touch with Kishwaukee College but has not heard back. Her contact has to check with all the instructors, so Elaine said that she should be hearing from her. We will give the award during the installation of officers in March.

Civic and Conservation – Diane Donze reported that she is very frustrated because her contact person has never emailed her back. Diane then contacted the director for an update. There will be two homes ready by the end of the year. We authorized \$75 per planter. A question was asked if we were going to advertise that the planter is from CRG. Diane reported that she attaches a card stating it is from CRG. Susan Schumacher said that she will let Diane know a date for the dedications.

Programs – Arch Smith reported that the committee is working on:

- 1.the Installation of Officers and Scholarship Presentation in March.
- 2.next summer CRG will have a tour of the Jamie and Maura Flannery garden in June.

Susan Buzzard reported that she has a flyer for a flower arranging class. She thought that this might be a good fund-raising idea.

Publicity – Susan Schumacher apologized for some inappropriate posts that showed up on the CRG Facebook page. She said that she has tightened up the restrictions. Susan also reported that she needs a co-administrator to help her and as a back-up person. Sherry Seaver volunteered to assist.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith reported that he has six private gardens lined up and one public garden (Womanspace). The Garden Walk will be on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, from 1-8. Lori will make donation containers for the scholarship fund. Arch reported that we might want to have eight signs that say “Garden Walk Here” in addition to the signs with arrows.

Horticulture – Pat Bellezza had no report.

Hospitality – Alice Moczynski reported that our next meeting will be on Monday, December 4, at Mary’s Market at 9:30 A.M.

Newsletter – Kathy Batzkall reported that we do not have a December newsletter. If a club is having any events, save the information for the January newsletter. Send any information to Kathy by Friday for the November newsletter.

Also, when you send photos to Kathy, she would like them by email rather than text for better quality.

Lori Walsh made a motion that if we have guest columnists, that they can submit articles no more than three times per year. The motion was seconded by Pat Bellezza and passed.

Parliamentarian – No report.

Sunshine – Cindy Rittenhouse sent a “get well” card to Patrice Vecchio as she recovers from her fall. Please let Cindy know if a card should be sent to a member.

Ways & Means – Lynne Franzene-Lynde asked if we were going to have another plant sale. The answer is no. However, eventually we will have to do a fundraiser. At the Garden Walk we will put out the contribution containers for the scholarship fund.

A class is also a possibility for fundraising – or we could do the class as a club activity for a fee. Another suggestion was to charge members \$5 or \$10 for the private garden tour next summer.

Website – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Donations to organizations are being worked on.

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion was held regarding getting more Council volunteers to work the Food Pantry. Many club members already volunteer individually on other days of the week at the Food Pantry. CRG is looking for volunteers on Wednesdays.

Volunteers are also needed to help Anita Johnson in the Vi Bates Wildflower Garden at Klehm in March, April, and May. Additionally, Mary Ann Miller needs help, especially at the end of April, in the Hosta Garden at Klehm.

We need more volunteers. If Council is sponsoring it, we can send out volunteer requests to all the clubs. We will table that idea till this winter.

Next meeting will take place Monday, December 4, at 9:30 a.m at Mary’s Market, State St., Rockford

All garden club members are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Duncan, Secretary

Remember to check our CRG website:

www.councilofrockfordgardeners.org

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

Registration is required for each event. See website.



Evergreen Container Workshop

Saturday, November 18th and Saturday, December 2nd, 10 am - 12:30 pm

Thanksgiving Centerpiece Workshop

Monday, November 20th, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM and Tuesday, November 21st, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
\$47 per Klehm Member; \$50 per non-member
Pre-registration is required

Gratitude Tranquility Walk

November 28, 2023; 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Adults: \$10/person; Seniors Age 62+: \$8/person;
Klehm Members: \$4/person
Pre-registration is required

Winter Tranquility Walk

December 21, 2023
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Adults: \$10/person; Seniors Age 62+: \$8/person;
Klehm Members: \$4/person
Pre-registration is required

NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY

1354 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, IL

<https://nicholasconservatory.com/>

ALL AGLOW

Come see sparkling holiday lights in the outdoor gardens.
Saturday, November 25, 2023 5:00 PM through Monday, January 8, 2024.



NATURE AT THE CONFLUENCE

306 Dickop Street,
South Beloit, IL,

<https://natureattheconfluence.com/>

Registration is required for each event. See website.

Upcycled Ornament Making

December 3, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Craft a unique holiday ornament using upcycled postage stamps. While the ornaments are drying, we will take a guided hike on our trails to observe wildlife. \$10.00

Winter Solstice Rejuvenation

December 21, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Join us for a special Winter Solstice celebration that will connect you back to the basics and rejuvenate your entire being through intentional crafting, gentle movement, breathwork, sound healing, and snacks! \$20.00

Birding Club

January 5, 7:30 am - 9:00 am
This beginner-friendly bird outing will include an introduction to birding and guided stroll on our Rock River Birding & Hiking Trail, a one mile loop path. \$5.00

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford, Illinois

815-229-9390 | <https://andersongardens.org/>

ILLUMINATED

ILLUMINATED is Anderson Gardens' wintertime lights experience, featuring dramatic up-lighting and thousands of white string lights woven throughout the landscape and canopy of the Garden.
Open Thursday – Sunday, November 30 to December 10.
Open Daily – December 14 – December 30.
Closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
Open Nightly 5:00 – 8:30 pm
Non-Member: Adult \$13 | Senior \$12