

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V 9 Issue 2
Editor: Kathy Batzkall



MARCH 2024



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

The Council of Rockford Gardeners recently held our annual Installation of Officers and Scholarship Award luncheon this past Monday, March 4th at Tavern on Clark. At the luncheon, Elaine Parrovecchio, CRG's Award Chair, presented Ethan Taylor, a Kishwaukee College freshman (and neighbor of mine) our CRG Scholarship Award. Kathy Batzkall was this year's recipient of the CRG Petal of Honor Award for her years of dedication. A big CRG congratulations to both!

This is an exciting time of the year. Spring is the season of new beginnings, renewal and growth. As the days get longer and much warmer, the world around us starts to come back to life with blooming flowers, chirping birds and buzzing bees. This is a perfect time for garden clubs to begin making new memories as our minds are all focused on the change of season.

As a small boy my family moved to a very large historic home with a rather large sprawling yard. I still remember that first spring, seeing literally thousands of tulips blooming everywhere! For a small boy, this was a very magical time and a lasting memory. This is my first memory related to gardening that I can vividly recall. I think it was what gave me a love for gardening.

When my mother became ill and not as able to maintain her garden as she once could, she hired someone to rototill about two feet all the way around her entire backyard where she planted zinnias, lots and lots of zinnias! I still recall going up to visit—Charlie and I walking out to the backyard standing there in awe—admiring her zinnias all in full bloom. It was quite a sight to see. Although my mother has passed, she has left behind many lasting memories!

After the luncheon I had an opportunity to visit with Joyce Lilly who shared several CRG memories with me. Joyce told me how they went about creating the CRG Scholarship Award. I'm hoping to have an opportunity to have Joyce and others as well share their CRG memories with me.

In closing, please remember ***"Memories are like that, like mustard seeds, tiny at first, but eventually the largest tree in all of the garden."*** - Sarad Domet

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

MARCH
2024

In This Issue:

P 1
*Club Information;
President's Pen*

P 2
*Scholarship Award;
Dist. 1 Director*

P 3-6
*Family Vacation
Garden Photos*

P 7
*Plant Latin Names:
Fear Not*

P 8
*Council March Meet-
ing Minutes*

P 9
District 1 Luncheon

P 10
Public Garden Events

SUBMIT questions or
comments to:

CRGnews815@gmail.com



2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Elaine Parrovecchio presented the scholarship award to our scholarship recipient, **Ethan Taylor**. Elaine said that Ethan is a freshman, full-time student at Kishwaukee College and is a horticulture major. He has plans to further his education in that field after graduation. Ethan lives here in Rockford and graduated from Guilford High School in 2023.

Elaine said that Ethan has loved plants and horticulture since childhood so decided to take a horticulture class his senior year at Guilford. His dream is to work in the horticulture field as a field researcher, traveling the world to research and study plants. He then plans to own a nursery, and to educate the public and help the environment.



HELLO FROM DISTRICT ONE DIRECTOR

Hello CRG members and Happy 2024! My name is Debbie Nagy and, for the last 2 years, it has been my honor to be your Garden Clubs of Illinois (GCI) District One (1) Director. I am a 33-year member of Rock River Garden Club in Dixon. District 1 is made up of twenty counties and is geographically the largest of the nine GCI districts. The area our clubs cover moves west from McHenry along the Illinois/Wisconsin border, southerly to the Quad Cities, easterly to Ottawa and up to Algonquin! There are almost 600 members in fifteen clubs. In the last year, two existing clubs combined to form one, one club dropped from GCI and a new club entered GCI. I am excited to welcome Morrison Garden Club into our district. They are a small, but mighty club celebrating 75 years in 2024.

I would love to see all of you attend a district-wide spring or fall meeting or both! The club presidents hold a morning meeting while members socialize followed by a luncheon and always interesting program. Our 2024 annual meeting will be hosted by Winnebago Garden Club on April 18th at the Jarrett Prairie Center in Byron. Please see reservation information on page 9 of this newsletter. We do have fun!

I also encourage you to attend the GCI annual meeting April 21 and 22 in Springfield. This is a change of location in the state and will include some exciting side trips and speakers. I am especially looking forward to visiting the Lincoln Memorial Gardens (LMG). A children's garden project is underway and is scheduled to be completed by April. Did you know that our very own GCI was instrumental in developing LMG?

Thank you for this opportunity to talk about our district. I will leave you with this from English Poet Alfred Austin:

*"The Glory of Gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature.
To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul."*

FAMILY / VACATION GARDEN PHOTOS

Mary Kay Morrison was our first respondent to Arch's request in our last newsletter for "family/vacation garden photos."



After the easter egg hunt (hid 400 plastic eggs) 12 grandkids enjoying the annual tradition of putting the buckets on their heads...



Grandkids love the swing in our willow tree.



Willow tree!



Hot summer day—hose fight!



Deb Bieschke's trip to the New York City Botanic Garden Orchid Show.



FAMILY / VACATION GARDEN PHOTOS



Susan Schumacher
at the gardens at the
Chateau of Che-
nonceaux, France,
2015. (L)
Kuekenhof, Holland
2023. (R)
"The most beautiful



Diane Donze at a
Paris flower market.



Arch and Charlie on vacation at
Sirao Gardens, Cebu City, Philippines.

FAMILY / VACATION GARDEN PHOTOS



(Top) **Jan Duncan's** trip to see beautiful plants at Sea Parks Conservatory in Seattle, WA, June, 2023.



Bougainvillea at the Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg, Florida in February, 2024.
(Above and left) - **Jan Duncan**



Kathy Batzkall visited Mackinac Island for the Proven Winners Grand Garden Weekend. (Above)

Green Animals Topiary Garden, Portsmouth, RI, the oldest topiary garden in the nation. (L)

FAMILY / VACATION GARDEN PHOTOS

Seedlings member, **Fiona Fordyce** was on holiday in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, New Zealand and found these gorgeous flowers.



GARDEN CLUB ADVENTURES



PLANTAHOLICS experienced a night at the Burpee Museum on March 5th.



WILDFLOWERS visited Rock Valley Greenhouse on February 22.



LATIN NAMES - FEAR NOT

Pat Belezza, Wildflower member and Horticulture Co-chair

Latin botanical names simplify gardening by letting us identify plants precisely and to describe them. They usually have two parts. First is the genus (plant group), written with an initial capital letter and in italic type. Next is the species (specific plant within a group), written with an initial capital letter and in italic type. Next is the species (a specific plant within a group), written usually with a small letter and in italic type. These may be followed by a cultivar name, with a capital letter, regular type, and single quotation marks. For example, the full name for the white crested iris is *Iris cristata* 'Alba'; the pyramidal Chinese juniper is *Juniperus chinensis* 'Pyramidalis'.

The surname of the person who "discovered" the plant is often used for the species name and given a Latin suffix indicating possession: -ii or -i for a man and -ae for a woman. *Prunus sargentii*, Sargent's cherry, was named for the dendrologist C.S. Sargent. *Phlox henryae*, was named for the botanist Mary Henry. Latin suffixes such as -ense, -ensis, -anum, -ana, -icus, and -ica are often added to a plant's place of origin to form the species name. The China rose is *Rosa chinensis*, the German iris is *Iris germanica*. The endings -issimus, -issima, and -issimum indicate the superlative degree and are used in species names to describe a superlative attribute. *Lonicera fragrantissima* (winter honeysuckle) is extremely fragrant; *Salix x elegantissima* (Thurlo w weeping willow) is a most graceful specimen.

Latin words found in the species and cultivar names often serve to describe a plant trait:

<u>LATIN</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
Alba	White
Aurea	Golden foliage
Contorta	Twisted
Edulis	Edible
Elata	Tall
Grandiflora	Large flowered
Japonica	From Japan
Lutea	Yellow
Maculata	Spotted
Nana	Dwarf
Occidentalis	From the West
Odorata	Scented
Orientalis	From the East
Pendula	Weeping
Purpurea	Purple
Racemosa	Flowers in racemes
Repens	Creeping
Rugosa	Wrinkled
Scandens	Climbing
Sempervirens	Evergreen
Stricta	Upright
Sylvestris	From the woods
Tomentosa	Downy



Beautiful spike-like **raceme** buds of the lupine.

MARCH 4, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Balance as of January 1, 2024 \$7,846.33
 Receipts: None 00.00
 \$7,846.33
 Disbursements:
 Cindy Rittenhouse (Cards) (10.88)
 Ending Balance as of January 31, 2024 \$7,832.45

Balance as of February 1, 2024 \$7,832.45
 Receipts: None 00.00
 \$7,832.45
 Disbursements:
 Lori Walsh (donation jars) (45.37)
 Ending Balance as of February 29, 2024 \$ 7,787.08

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by **Mary Ann Miller**, Treasurer



Committee Reports

Awards – Elaine Parrovecchio reported that the 2024 scholarship award to Ethan Taylor was \$2,000.

Susan Schumacher reported that she has seen other clubs announcing their scholarship opportunities on Facebook and wondered whether CRG would like to do that as well. Council members agreed that it would be a good idea to announce our CRG scholarship on Facebook.

Civic and Conservation – Diane Donze reported that we did two homes for Habitat for Humanity. The last one was cancelled because of the cold weather, but the plant and other items were to be delivered to the homeowner. We will do another one this spring, and one more later in the year.

Programs – Arch Smith reported that on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 1:00 P.M. and 5:30 P.M. CRG members will tour the Flanary Garden.

The other program will be the **Fall Frolic**. Plantaholics will be in charge this year with Arch and Cindy Rittenhouse heading up plans.

Publicity – Susan Schumacher had no report.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith reported that he has the garden owners list. There will be six homes on the Garden Walk and the Woman's Space garden.

Lori Walsh is working on the donation jars and the signs for the front yards.

Arch has ordered banners and will order more promotional cards.

Horticulture – No report.

Hospitality – Alice Moczynski and Bev Larson are working together right now on Hospitality. Bev Larson is our new Hospitality chairman. We thanked Alice for serving as Hospitality chairman.

Newsletter – Kathy Batzkall reported that the March Newsletter is pretty well filled with photos. She needs any other information by Friday.

Parliamentarian – Sarah Britton reported that we are doing pretty good.

Sunshine – Cindy Rittenhouse sent a card to Irene Vella for

her knee surgery. Please contact Cindy if a card should be sent to a member.

Arch reported that the new Council of Rockford Gardeners cards are being made, and Arch will get them to Cindy.

Ways & Means – Lynne Franzene-Lynde had no report.

Arch Smith talked to Jessica Salisbury at Village Green regarding the fundraiser (taking pictures of children or pets with the Easter Bunny) on Saturday, March 23. Jessica said that we can do the fundraiser there and put out flyers. We will take the picture with the person's cellphone and charge \$10.

It was suggested that we promote the fundraiser at various churches and day care centers.

Website – Kathy Batzkall reported that **Jamie Flanary** will take over the website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Susan Schumacher reported that the Valentine's Day decorations For River Bluff Nursing home worked out well. CRG members made arrangements for the nursing home tables for Valentine's Day.

NEW BUSINESS

Susan Schumacher reported that the Garden Clubs of Illinois has \$25 awards that they present every year. We won an award last year for our Newsletter and our Garden Walk, which also included \$25.

Susan then made a motion that we select an award to sponsor for the Garden Clubs of Illinois awards for 2024 for a total commitment of \$125 over a five-year period. Susan Schumacher will pick the best award. The motion was seconded by Maura Flanary, and the motion passed.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 1, 2024, at Mary's Market at 9:30 A.M. All CRG members are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jan Duncan, Secretary



Thursday, APRIL 18, 2024

ANNUAL DISTRICT ONE GCI

SPRING MEETING

HOSTED BY THE WINNEBAGO GARDEN CLUB

Location: Jarrett Prairie Center

7993 N. River Rd. Byron IL.61010

TIME:

9:30 Doors Open-Registration

10:00-Presidents & Officers Meeting

11:00 Members District I Meeting & Election

12:00 Buffet Lunch

1:00 Speaker

Land Manager, Russell Brunner

The Natural Areas of the Byron Forest Preserve District

2:00 Basket Raffle

\$35 per person. Please RSVP and send a check payable to Winnebago Garden Club or WGC by Monday, April 8th to Char Remer, 11691 Kelly Rd. Winnebago, Il. 61088

Contact Cindy McIntyre at (815)985-3601 or shoelover13@gmail.com with any questions.

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.

Create Your Own Mini Peace Pole

Saturday, March 23, 2024

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Karla Lombardo of ArtbyKarla will teach you how to make your very own colorful Peace Pole.

\$65 per person.

Exciting New Plants to Put on Your Radar

FREE! Online Webinar via Zoom

Thursday, March 28, 2024

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Mark Dwyer will cover a wide range of newer selections of annuals, perennials and woody plants for both sun and shade with a focus on those that are sure to be rising stars!



NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY

1354 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, IL

<https://nicholasconservatory.com/>

Secret Life of Butterflies

Saturday, March 23, 10:00 AM to

Sunday, May 26, 3:00 PM

Reserve a time online.

Join us to explore the wild, wonderful, and often strange world of butterflies and moths!



NATURE AT THE CONFLUENCE

306 Dickop Street,

South Beloit, IL,

<https://natureattheconfluence.com/>

Birding Club

Friday April 12 | 7:30 am - 9:00 am

Practice the art of noticing details while connecting with nature. 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. All experience levels are welcome. Binoculars provided. This guided walk will start at 7:30am at our building. Tickets \$5.00.

Registration is required for this event. See website.

Oak Sapling Giveaway

Friday, April 12 | 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Saturday, April 13 | 9 am - 12 pm

\$10 donation suggested per sapling.



SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER

8786 Montague Road, Rockford IL

<https://www.seversondells.com>

Watercolor Painting with Jenny Mathews

Saturday, March 23, 2024

10:00 AM 11:30 AM

Enjoy a morning of watercolor with local artist Jenny Mathews, as she walks you through the basics and helps hone your painting skills. All supplies will be provided.

Cost: \$30/members, \$35/general admission.



ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford

<https://andersongardens.org>

Introduction to Ikebana

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 | 10:00 AM

Cost: \$45 Members | \$55 Non-Members per class. Includes flower materials.

Space is limited and registration is required. See web.