

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V 9 Issue 3
Editor: Karla Hardman



APRIL 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

Last newsletter we were asked to share "garden related vacation photos." I really did enjoy seeing all the various shared photos. In fact, I enjoyed them so very much that I showed them all to Charlie. However, he has now added all these vacation places to our bucket list. Oh well, I guess we will be taking pictures at the same places soon too! This Idea was so successful that the CRG Newsletter will be featuring some other opportunities for members to share photos in future newsletters.

An announcement is in order, Karla Hardman will be taking charge of the newsletter and website from long time editor, Kathy Batzkall. Karla and Kathy will be working together on the change of leadership. Another big thank you to Kathy Batzkall for her years of dedication. Kathy will be our new information coordinator sending out various announcements in between our monthly newsletters. Karla Hardman was kind enough to step up and offer to take over as CRG's Editor. Karla is so dedicated to the new challenge that she has been updating software and learning all the ends and outs from Kathy. Hopefully there is another "Best Newsletter Award" in CRG's future!

It was suggested at our last CRG Council meeting (which is always open to all members to attend) to add a section on "Share Your Garden Tips." If anyone has any tips, they would like to share with our CRG membership, please submit them. I think this could be a very informative section of our newsletter especially with the wealth of knowledge from our own members. I'm always amazed at the clever ideas others come up with.

The District 1 Spring Luncheon is coming up on Thursday, April 18th hosted by Winnebago Garden Club. Details are in the newsletter. It would be nice to have a showing of CRG members. Our own, Anita Johnson, will be hosting a tour at Klehm's Vi Bates Wildflower Garden on Monday, April 22nd to celebrate Earth Day. Again, details are in the newsletter.

In closing, please remember “There is no medicine you can take that has such a direct influence on your health as a walk in a beautiful forest.” — Dr. Qing Li

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

GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES

Wildflower gathering at Pepper Creek on March 21st. Vicky showed us some new plants for 2024, and we got to check out the greenhouse.



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CRGnews815@gmail.com



March 12th - Potpourri
members met at Village
Green on Main Street to
plant basil, thyme and



Seedling
succulent planting



GARDEN CLUB EASTER EVENT



POLLINATORS IN DANGER

Pat Belezza, Wildflower member and Horticulture Co-chair

According to the USDA, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world's flowering plants and about 35% of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. Wild bees, ants, beetles, wasps, lizards, birds, bats, and butterflies are all important pollinators and 40% of them are endangered! Habitat loss causing poor nutrition, pesticides, diseases and viruses and climate change are the major causes of decline. But, there are things that we can do to help. Use pesticides as a last resort and do not apply them when bees are likely to be flying. Safest times are one hour before sunset to two hours before sunrise or when the temperature is below 55 degrees. Early evening is best so pesticides can dry overnight. Do not apply on a windy day. Buy and use the right type and amount according to directions. More is not better!

Help in your yard by providing food, shelter and water for pollinators. Plant natives as much as possible. Many of the new cultivars are not recognized by pollinators as they lack fragrance or are colored differently than the natives they are bred to recognize. **Food sources:** Flowers (nectar and pollen), fermenting fallen fruits (bees, beetles, butterflies). Plant a diversity of plants to support a diversity of pollinators. Vary colors, fragrances and heights. Herbs and annuals, although not native are also good for pollinators: mint, oregano, garlic, chives, parsley, lavender, old fashioned zinnias, cosmos, single sunflowers. **Shelter:** pollinators need protection from bad weather and predators and sites for roosting and nesting. Plant various sizes of trees, shrubs, and perennials and leave leaf litter and build bee boxes. **Water:** Use natural and man-made water features, small containers of water with sloping sides so they don not drown.

The USDA website on pollinators has a chart of trees, shrubs, flowers and vines that shows bloom periods, colors, and the pollinators they attract. There is also an extensive list of resources for more information, planting ideas and detailed information on specific pollinators such as bees and butterflies. You can also go to pollinator.org/guides for ecoregional planting guides. Next month I will write about native bees which, although not well known, actually pollinate better than honeybees which were introduced here from Europe.



CRG helpful garden tips and upcoming events.

WANTED

For July newsletter



your best past Garden
Walk photos

submit before
July 1st



SHARE YOUR GARDEN TIPS

BANANA PEEL WATER

Bananas are rich in potassium, calcium, phosphorus and magnesium. This combination can stimulate and benefit your plant's growth."



Dice up your banana peels and store in a container of water for a few days. Water your plants once a month with banana water. Succulents will especially benefit from extra nutrients.

CRG PRESENTS VI BATES WILDFLOWER GARDEN STROLL



Mon April 22 1pm

Earth Day Celebration

Open to all CRG members and guests
Hosted by garden coordinator
Anita Johnson

Native Plant
donations
greatly
appreciated

KLEHM
ARBORETUM
2715 S. Main St.
Rockford, IL



Pepper Creek has custom potting soil for sale.

This potting soil is good for succulents, house plants and garden pots.

22 gallon bag - \$25.99

8 gallon bag - \$11.89

APRIL 1, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance as of March 1, 2024 \$7,787.08

Receipts: Dues 1,995.00
\$9,782.08

Disbursements:

Ethan Taylor (scholarship)..... \$2,000.00

S. Schumacher (Valentine supplies)..... 140.13

M.A. Miller (Gift card for luncheon)..... 100.05

Barb Flores (Pantry canopy)..... 617.49

Garden Clubs of IL (Dues)..... 756.00

\$3,613.67

Ending Balance as of March 30, 2024..... \$6,168.41

Submitted by Mary Ann Miller, Treasurer

Committee Reports

Awards – Arch Smith reported that in March we presented the scholarship at our meeting and also presented Kathy Batzkall with the Petal of Honor award.

Civic and Conservation – Diane Donze reported that there was supposed to be another dedication this spring, but she has not heard anything about it from Habitat.

Programs – Arch Smith reported that our next CRG program is the Flanary Garden Tour on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 1:00 P.M. and 5:30 P.M. Maura Flanary said that there will also be a raffle fund raiser that day.

Publicity – No report.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith reported that he is working with Lori Walsh on the signs, and he is still trying to get a better price. Lori has made nine canisters for the scholarship donations for the Garden Walk. There will be one canister at each garden. Arch is still working with Andrew regarding the proposed art show that would be held at Womanspace during the Garden Walk, but it is not confirmed. If it costs us money, Arch said that we will not do it. Arch said that we need more promotional cards, and he will order more.

Horticulture – No report. Kathy Batzkall reported that she has one more article for May.

Hospitality – Bev Larson is our new Hospitality chairman. When she sends a reminder email about our CRG meeting, please respond to her as to whether or not you will attend.

Newsletter – Kathy Batzkall reported that she is going to give Karla Hardman a “tutorial” on the Newsletter since Karla will be taking on that job. Send Kathy any Newsletter information by Friday. Several suggestions were made as to other resources to list in the Newsletter.

Parliamentarian – No report.

Sunshine – No report. Contact Cindy Rittenhouse if any cards should be sent to a member. Arch passed around a couple of samples of the new Council of Rockford Gardeners cards that were made.

Ways & Means – Arch Smith said that the Easter Bunny picture fundraiser was not a big success. They had fun, but it only raised \$115. They will rethink the project. We could have another small fundraiser, and several ideas were discussed. A discussion was also held regarding giving a CRG thank you gift to places we visit.

Website – Kathy Batzkall had several questions regarding the Garden Walk: 1) number of attendees over the years, 2) number of years it has been held. 3) The Events page – we need to make it more concise if we no longer have the spring and holiday fundraisers. 4) our webmaster - Kathy contacted the webmaster and asked him to make it more compatible with our phones.

Mary Ann Miller and Karla Hardman will compare their membership lists to make sure the information is the same.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Arch Smith will check on the proposed CRG decals.

Karla Hardman said that she and other new members do not have a CRG t-shirt. Arch Smith will check with Susan Buzzard regarding ordering more t-shirts. This time prepayment will be required.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sherry Seaver announced that the Potpourri May plant exchange meeting will be held on May 28th at 9:30 A.M.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lori Walsh, and seconded by Colleen Blanchard.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 A.M.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 6, 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

Spring Twilight Tranquility Walk

Sunday, April 21, 2024 | 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Location: Clarcor Pavilion

Register online.

Come out to Klehm for a guided walk through the woods that focuses on breathing, using your senses, meditation, and reflection. Do you want to see more? Enter the darkness. Twilight is that liminal time that divides light from darkness; the seen from the unseen; the known from the unknown. Join in on this silent, meditative time in nature where twilight will offer the opportunity to see deeper into all things, and where you might find that state of knowing in which both light and shadow come forth and all things appear as one. Listen for the owls to speak. Join the birds as they settle for the night. Smell the dampness of the forest floor as it rises up to greet you.

NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY

1354 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, IL

<https://nicholasconservatory.com/>

Secret Life of Butterflies

Saturday, March 23, 10:00 AM through

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 required. See website.*

SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER

8786 Montague Road, Rockford IL

<https://www.seversondells.com>

Guided Hike at Ferguson

Saturday, April 13, 2024 | 9:00 AM

8602 West Winslow Road, Shirland, IL

Join FPWC Volunteer, Tim Speer, for a Saturday morning hike at Ferguson Forest Preserve! Located at the confluence of the Sugar River and Pecatonica Rivers, Ferguson Forest Preserve's provides valuable wildlife habitat and is home to several threatened plant species and about 150 species of birds. This is a free, family-friendly event. Leashed dogs allowed. Please RSVP. See website.

Spring Guided Hike

Saturday, April 13th | 9:00AM

5691 River Road, Cherry Valley

Join us for a spring guided hike at Deer Run Forest Preserve where you are likely to see many spring ephemeral flowers! In spring, Deer Run is a prime spot to see floodplain woodland wildflowers including a spectacular sea of Virginia Bluebells. Deer Run contains a segment of the Kishwaukee River, hundreds of acres of restored prairie, floodplain wetlands and ponds, as well as woods. This is a free, family-friendly event. Leashed dogs allowed. Please RSVP. See website.

<https://www.seversondells.com>

WILD ONES

<http://wildonesrrvc.org/>

Monthly Zoom meetings, replayed on YouTube:

http://wildonesrrvc.org/Monthly_Meetings.html

Wild Ferns of Illinois

with Chris Benda

Thursday, April 18 - 6:00 pm Social Time, 6:30 pm

Cherry Valley Library

755 East State Street

Cherry Valley, IL

Over 100 native fern species can be found in Illinois. This Zoom presentation will introduce basic fern terminology with photos and identification tips to identify them in the wild. Free program. Please register.

<http://wildonesrrvc.org>

**4472 S. Mulford Rd.
Rockford, 61109**

**The Landscape Connection
Spring Calendar of Events**

815-633-5100

**WORKSHOPS EVERY SATURDAY IN
MARCH & APRIL & MAY**

All Classes require pre-registration and pre-payment. We are sorry, we do not allow refunds, but kits are available to be picked up if you miss a class. All Classes are limited to 8 people and open spots are only available the day of a class if the class did not sell out in advance. We supply all materials for classes. You supply your own gloves or apron. Parents are required to stay with children in kid workshops and help them.

Sat. March 2nd 10:00-11:30 am

Woodland Terrarium Workshop \$50.00

Using ferns, moss, and woodland elements make this excellent terrarium in a horizontal glass jar.

Sat. March 2nd 1:00-2:30 pm

Succulent Planters in a Wooden Box Workshop \$50.00

So fun, and so easy. Create a one of a kind succulent planter box to take home and enjoy.

Sat. March 9th 10:00-11:30 am

Succulent Planters in a Wooden Box Workshop \$50.00

Sat. March 9th 10:00-11:30 am

Woodland Terrarium Workshop \$50.00

Sat. March 16th

10-11:30 am or 1:00-2:30 pm

Grapevine Spring Wreath Workshop \$45.00

This wreath will be made with silks and you will be using a glue gun and floral wire

Sat. March 23rd

10-11:30 am or 1:00-2:30 pm

Spa Box Workshop \$50.00

Make a custom candle, bath salts, and 2 body scrubs

Sat. March 30th

10-11:30 am or 1:00-2:30 pm

Fresh Floral Centerpiece Box Workshop \$50.00

Tulips, Iris, Lilies, pretty spring flowers and greens will make a great fresh floral box.

Sat. April 6th

10-11:30 am or 1:00-2:30 pm

Spring Planters: Ranunculus-Pansies & \$50.00

Forcing Branches Workshop.

Put together this great planter and watch the branches come to life while you enjoy the beautiful pansies and ranunculus

Sat. April 13th

10-11:30 am or 1:00-2:30 pm

Succulents in Open Glass Terrarium Workshop \$50.00

Create a succulent planting in an open glass terrarium.

Sat. April 20th

10:00-12:00 pm or 1:00-3:00 pm \$55.00

Making Willow Orbs w/ Moss & Flower Planters Workshop
We will make natural orbs with willow branches. We will fill it with dirt, moss and a fun planting of flowers and ferns

Sat. April 27th

10:00-12:00 pm or 1:00-3:00 pm \$65.00

Moss, Rock & Flower Shadowbox Art Workshop
Make a great piece of art and create a garden scene as you copy the instructors piece. We will be using moss, rocks, dried pressed flowers and things from nature to create the piece.

Sat. May 4th

10:00-12:00 pm or 1:00-3:00 pm \$60.00

Flower Plank Rock and Paint Sign workshop

Using planks you will paint rocks and metal to create a floral wall up the planks. Can be hung or used as a small porch leaner.

Sat. May 9th

10am-3 pm

Just for Kids: Painting Pots for Mom \$20.00

Includes 1 plant potted up in the pot

Class starts at the top of every hour from 10-3

Limit 8 kids per class.

Sat. May 18th

Container Gardening Workshop \$60.00

10:00 am

1:00 pm

2:30 pm

We supply a 14" pot, the dirt, the starter fertilizer and the plants for you to create a fabulous container garden for your porch.

Sat. May 25th

Container Gardening Workshop \$60.00

10:00 am

1:00 pm

2:30 pm

We supply a 14" pot, the dirt, the starter fertilizer and the plants for you to create a fabulous container garden for your porch.

Sat June 1st & Sun June 2nd

Come see us at the Klehm Garden Fair!!!!