

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V9 Issue 4
Editor: Karla Hardman

MAY 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

Mission accomplished, well sort of. Each year, at a CRG Council Meeting we divvy up the task of delivering promo cards for our award winning Annual Free Garden Walk to all the area nurseries. A task that CRG Council members have been doing for several decades, approximately 40 years.

Charlie and I had planned on working in the yard a few Sundays ago, but rain had changed our plans. So, we decide to do an early scouting of all the area nurseries instead. I came up with the bright idea of feeding 2 birds with 1 seed by delivering the CRG Garden Walk promo cards to the nurseries at that same time. Sounded like such a great idea at the time, but...

Now taking Charlie along with me anywhere that there is shopping available is EXTREMELY DANGEROUS! Charlie is what some refer to as a professional shopper. FedEx, UPS and the USPS have our home on a regular daily drop off list and I'm now on a first name basis with all the delivery drivers. And you thought Imelda Marcos had a lot of shoes! I keep telling him " Charlie you only have 2 feet!"

Well, we did get all the cards delivered after unloading our plant filled SUV not once, but twice before finishing our mission. Our dining room is full of plants, as well as our deck just waiting to find a home in our garden. (picture attached below)

Mark your calendars, tell your friends, share it on your social media! Not the picture of our dining room, but rather information about our CRG Garden Walk coming up on Wed July 10th. from 1pm to 8pm. Just like the plants covering our dining room and deck, it's never too early to start spreading the word!

President’s message continued on page 2.

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

GARDEN - CLUB EVENTS

MAY
2024

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CRGnews815@gmail.com



President's message continued...

A big thank you in advance to all members who have volunteered or will be volunteering to make the CRG Annual Free Garden Walk another huge success! A special thanks to Charlie for keeping our economy growing... literally and to Lori & Tom Walsh for all the things they do to help me behind the scenes!

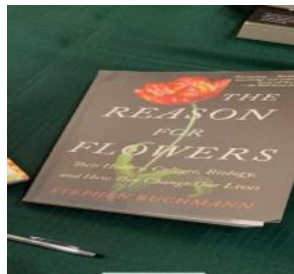
In closing, please remember "You can't buy happiness, but you can buy PLANTS, that's pretty much the same thing." Anonymous

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



Plantaholics - April the group went to Mary Ann Miller's home for a book discussion. Then on May 2nd the group enjoyed Rock Cut Park for a guided bird walk.

Plantaholics will be responsible for working at the Food Pantry in August.



GARDEN - CLUB EVENTS

Potpourri - May 28th is the date for the annual plant exchange, potluck lunch, and fund raiser event at Sherry Seaver's home. Members should bring a gently used garden item for a raffle.

The group also had a very interesting hydroponic demonstration at Grow Big Hydro in Machesney Park, followed by a delicious lunch Rascals's.



Seedlings - will have a bird watching event at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory in Rockton at 9:00am on Thursday, May 23.

Wildflowers - went to Kopke's Garden Center in Oregon, WI, and some members then stopped at K&W Nursery in Janesville.



GARDEN CLUB - EVENTS

Plantaholics - enjoyed a evening Bird Watching Tour at Rock Cut State Park led by RVC Art Professor & Bird Enthusiast, Matt Vincent.



Vi Bates Woodland Wildflower Garden

Beautiful day to visit the garden.



District 1 GCI Spring Meeting hosted by Winnebago Garden Club. Attended by Arch Smith.

CRG Presents FLANARY GARDEN



**RAFFLE
PRIZES
REFRESHMENTS
SERVED**



**PRIVATE
TOUR
GUESTS
WELCOME**

Tue June 11th 1pm & 5:30pm

**12368 Heather Court
Belvidere, IL**

RSVP by June 7th
Maura Flanary
815-980-0807

call

text

CRG OFFICIAL CLUB T SHIRT order

pre paid only



S*M*L

\$12.00

larger sizes

\$13.50

sizes run small

contact

Susan Buzzard

text

815-978-3323

NATIVE BEES

Pat Belezza, Wildflower member and Horticulture Co-chair

Bees are the world's primary pollinators. Without them many wild plants and crops would not survive. There are more than 4,000 species of native bees in North America and Hawaii and although they are not as well known as honey bees, they have a vital role in ecosystems and provide more than \$3B in fruit pollination services each year in the U.S. alone. Nearly 1 in 4 of these species is endangered or threatened with extinction.

The majority of native North American bees are solitary, ground-nesting species that collect everything from pollen, nectar, petals, and floral oils to be used for adult bee food, larval provisions, or nest linings. The Midwest corn belt ranks among the lowest in bee populations due to the huge number of acres planted in a single plant (corn, soybeans) which replace native prairie plants.

Mason bee is the name commonly used for bees in the genus *Osmia* and are named for their habit of using mud or other "masonry" products to construct their nests. Nests are made in natural gaps between stones or other small tubular shaped holes about the size of a pencil. Bees section the tube with mud after laying 5-6 eggs. The next section is filled with pollen (food for the larvae) and sectioned alternately until the tube is filled. She is a solitary bee that mates, lays her eggs and dies in about 10 weeks.

Mason bees are among the first bees to emerge in spring and can tolerate temps down to about 55 degrees. They are active from 55 degrees until they die at the onset of winter. The species continues through the pupae which overwinter in the tube nest until they emerge in warm spring weather.

Mason bees are excellent pollinators! She lands willy-nilly on a flower spreading pollen everywhere. The pollen sticks all over her body like velcro and is more likely to be spread to other flowers needing fertilization. Orchards need less mason bees per acre than honey bees. Mason bees have a 95% pollination rate; honey bees have a 5% pollination rate. Mason bees make their nests about 300' from the best selection of flowers; honey bees feed much farther away—up to 2 miles away. It is easy to set up a mason bee house near the plants or trees you wish pollinated and have great success. Mason bee houses are available for purchase online or you can build your own, also from online instructions.

APRIL 1, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Balance as of May 6, 2024	\$6,168.41
Receipts: Dues	30.00
Arch as Easter Bunny	115.00
Mary Ann Miller - deposit to correct amount pd	<u>24.00</u>
	\$ 154.00
	\$6,322.41

Disbursements:

Fall District 1 Luncheon	\$ 59.81
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Habitat for Humanity	61.94
District Awards	25.00
Dues to District	10.00
	\$ 156.75
Ending Balance as of April 30, 2024	\$6,165.66

TREASURER’S REPORT

Submitted by **Mary Ann Miller**, Treasurer

Committee Reports

Awards - No Report.

Civic Conservation - Diane Donze reported that Habitat is working on nine homes, but CRG will only provide planters for four a year. We have presented two planters and have two more to do this year. Diane then reported on the Habitat for Humanity program and listed their guidelines for prospective homeowners.

Programs - Arch Smith reported that the Flanary Garden Tour will be on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 1:00pm and 5:30pm. Maura Flanary said that they will have a raised garden bed (which will be delivered) and a couple of other items for the fund raiser raffle that day. She said we should bring our “singles” for the raffle. Refreshments and appetizers will also be served. They need RSVP’s so they know how many people to plan on. A flyer with all the information will be set out.

Arch then reported that Plantaholics is in charge of the Fall Frolic Gathering of Clubs this year. Cindy Rittenhouse and Arch will chair the event for Plantaholics.

Arch reported that the committee is also working on next year’s Annual CRG Garden Tour. Mary Ann Smith has offered her garden for the tour. Diane Donze is helping with that.

Publicity – Susan Schumacher - No report.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith reported that Lori and Tom Walsh are working on proofing the Garden Walk description information. Arch ordered and received the 5,000 promotion cards, and the cost was only \$88. Most of the cards have been delivered or will be delivered to local greenhouses, Klehm, Nicholas Conservatory, and Anderson Gardens. It was suggested that we put out cards at Porch in Rockford and at Shine in Loves Park.

Arch also passed around several signs that say “Event Here” in the same style that Lori Walsh designed previously, and he said he could purchase ten signs for \$105 or 12 signs for \$120. It was agreed that he should order 12 - and give one sign to each club for their events. It was suggested that the lettering be a little brighter, and Arch will work on brightening it up.

In addition, Arch is working on gardens for the 2025 Garden Walk, and he has six potential gardens lined up already.

Horticulture – Pat Bellezza - No report.

Hospitality – Bev Larson - No Report.

Newsletter – Karla Hardman reported that all is going well. Send Karla any Newsletter information by Friday. Susan Buzard would like to have the CRG t-shirt order information in the Newsletter - with a deadline of June 15 for ordering. The only way to order is to prepay by check or cash. Susan must receive the money by June 15. T-shirts run small. Cost of a t-shirt is: \$13.50 for XL or XXL, and \$12.00 for a S, M, or L.

Parliamentarian – Sarah Britton - No report.

Sunshine – Cindy Rittenhouse sent Arch her report. She sent: 1) get well card to Inge Frye for her knee surgery, 2) a thank you card to Anita Johnson and her two volunteers for arranging the Vi Bates Garden Tour on Earth Day, and 3) a sympathy card to Alice Pearce on the death of her husband. Please call Cindy (815) 977-2090 if any cards should be sent to a member.

Ways & Means – Lynne Franzene-Lynde reported that we have a good balance in our account and that we will receive more funds from the Flanary Garden Tour raffle and the Garden Walk donation canisters.

Website – Kathy Batzkall had a question about removing the addresses from previous garden walk homes on the website, and it was agreed that the addresses should be removed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

CRG t-shirts which were discussed above.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lynne Franzene-Lynde, and seconded by Mary Ann Miller.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, June 3, 2024, at Mary’s Market at 9:30am. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Duncan, Secretary

Garden Club - Helpful Hints & Information

WANTED For July newsletter



Submitted by Maura Flanary. Did our false start to Spring have you it hung to start outdoor planting early? Looking for some inspiration while at home figuring what series you can stream next? Check out some of the most popular Gardening You Tube Channels. Check the following Garden Answers below:

<https://www.youtube.com/results?>

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=linda+vater

<https://www.youtube.com/results?>

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=impatient+gardener

your best past Garden Walk photos

submit before
July 1st



SHARE YOUR GARDEN TIPS

May 18th from 9am to 2pm. Both gates will be open to the public. Follow the flower whirl-a-gig signs to 128 Gables Drive SW. Perennials, annuals, vegetables and garden related items will be available. Food trucks will be at the Rec Center by the lake, and garage sales all around the community. Come and enjoy!

Insect Trap especially for whiteflies and aphids. Attach yellow cardboard to a stick. Cover both sides of cardboard with Vaseline. Place in garden or container pot so yellow cardboard is just above the top of the plant.



Tip submitted by Lori Walsh

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

Garden Fair Weekend 2024

Saturday, June 1st and Sunday, June 2nd

Join Klehm the first weekend in June to experience a wide variety of plants, flowers, garden décor, art, educational information booths and more!

Listen to live music performances in our Fountain Garden while enjoying a meal from local food truck vendors.

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/>

Community Fire & Drum Circle

Thursday, May 23 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Join the tradition of celebrating summer at The Confluence! Whether you're a seasoned drummer, or have never picked up a drum, you are invited to participate. We have musical instruments for you to try, or you are welcome to bring your own. Drumming is optional- all are welcome to simply enjoy the fire, listen to the music, and make a s'more. This is a free, family-friendly event and there is no registration. Drumming is led by David Stocker, with occasional guest leaders.

Registration is required for this event. See website.

SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER

8786 Montague Road, Rockford IL

seversondells.com

Wildflower Walk - Kinnikinnick Creek

Wednesday, May 15, 6:00pm

Guided Wildflower walkabout.

Registration is Required!

Wildflower Walk - Burr Oak Valley

Tuesday, May 21, 6:00pm

Guided Wildflower walkabout.

Registration is Required!

Wildflower Walk - Bald Hill Prairie

Wednesday, May 29, 6:00pm

Guided Wildflower walkabout.

Registration is Required!

Wildflower Walk - Colored Sands

Tuesday, June 4, 6:00pm

Guided Wildflower walkabout.

Registration is Required!

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford

andersongardens.org

Tuesday Evening in the Gardens

Tuesday, May 28, 5pm - 8pm

Tuesday Evening in the Gardens features local, regional and nationally touring musicians.

Join friends and family for a summer filled with live music and comradery in this beautiful outdoor setting.

WILD ONES

<http://wildonesrrvc.org/>

Monthly Zoom meetings, replayed on YouTube:

http://wildonesrrvc.org/Monthly_Meetings.html

No events scheduled right now