

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V10 Issue 5

Editor: Karla Hardman

JUNE 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

My father wasn't much for gardening. However, each year he would begin his quest for the best tomato plants. Our backyard neighbor Pat would rototill an area for my father's annual vegetable garden. My father had a passion for growing the largest, brightest red, most perfect tomatoes you have ever seen. His tomatoes could win a Blue Ribbon at any county fair!

My entire family all waited in anticipation for my father's garden to grow. The best part of his garden wasn't really the tomato plants, but it was the surprise that happened each year. Neighbor Pat was quite a prankster. Every year Pat would sneak over and do something to my father's garden. Pat planted corn in between the tomatoed plants or he would attach plastic tomatoes to the plants making my father think he was getting an extremely early harvest that year. One year Pat actually came over and removed all my father's tomato plants replacing them with cherry tomatoes instead. As a kid it was always a fun surprise to see Pat's passion for pranking.

For someone without much of a green thumb, my father truly had a passion for growing tomatoes! Although it was just a vegetable garden my father took pride each year in that garden. Moving forward, history seems to have a way of repeating itself. Now I end up going on that same quest looking for the best tomato plants, only this time with Charlie, he shares the same passion as my father once had. Only now, Charlie buys just one for a container, ironically, Charlie and I don't even eat fresh tomatoes.



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CRGnews815@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S PEN continued

It's interesting how gardening is such a huge part of most people's lives. Whether it's mowing the perfect lawn, planting the perfect container or growing the perfect vegetable garden. It's fun to see other's passions. CRG has a unique opportunity this summer to experience just that with the FLANARY GARDEN TOUR. Now I'm not sure if any tomato plants will be featured, but I hope you all come to find out the surprise in stored for you all!

In closing, please remember: "If there's one thing I can say about my garden, it can always surprise me." - David Hobson

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

GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

The Council of Rockford Gardeners, Inc. donated and put together a metal top gazebo to the Rock River Valley Pantry. This stylish gazebo will give all RRVP staff, Rockford gardeners and the Community protection from the sun on hot sunny days and also shelter from the elements on inclement weather days. Builders were: Andrew Schumacher and John Buzzard. Supervised by Arch!!



Thank you all for your time and constructiveness!!

GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

Seedlings visited the Colored Sands Forest Preserve in Durand to learn about bird banding. It was very interesting to hear from them about how the birds are caught, measured, inspected and banded before being released. The Seedlings highly recommended this adventure.



The Seedlings assured all that there was no harm to any of the birds.

Thank You
Beck Thalhofer & Suzy Osborne
Whiplashadz
for sponsoring the billboard across
from CherryVale Mall

FREE GARDEN WALK
WEDNESDAY
JULY 10TH
1 pm to 8 pm

Council of Rockford Gardeners.org

www.cofrockford.com

Displays our message
1,500 times per day

The billboard is set against a clear blue sky. The sign itself is yellow with black and green text. Below the sign, a tall metal pole supports the billboard. In the background, there are some buildings and a parking lot.

GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

Sherri Seaver hosted **Potpourri's** annual plant and slightly-used garden item exchange, raffle and delicious potluck lunch.



GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

Wildflowers toured and shopped at Heinz Brothers Greenhouse in St. Charles in May.



q q q

Plantaholics had a great time at Hugo's Hosta Haven. Thank you Mike & Pam!!!



New members:
Sherry & Marco.



PRUNING PERENNIALS

Pat Belezza, Wildflower member and Horticulture Co-chair

Generally, most spring blooming perennials should be pruned immediately after blooming. Summer annual blooming plants can be pruned in spring to encourage bushier, more floriferous plants. This does not apply to all summer and fall blooming plants however.

Pruning and deadheading perennials can extend the bloom period and encourage repeat blooming. Often if the plant is not allowed to go to seed, it will try to put out new blooms in order to complete its life cycle. Examples of plants that benefit from deadheading: columbine, phlox, black eyed susan, Stokes aster. To encourage new growth, cut back plants after flowering when the old growth gets ratty looking. This encourages new growth from the base of the plant. Some will even rebloom after being cut back. Examples: perennial geranium, catmint, spiderwort, salvia. Cut back to new growth or leave at least 2" of the old stems.

To lengthen bloom time and stagger plant height, plant in large groups and pinch or cut back individual plants differently. For many perennials, pruning delays blooming 2-3 weeks. Plants manipulated by pruning: phlox, aster, monarda, mums, chelone, helenium, obedient plant, Joe-Pye weed, veronica, catmint, Russian sage, monkshood. Summer bloomers should be pinched in spring; fall bloomers should be pinched before July 4th (asters, mums, chelone). To increase flower size, disbud all side buds to make the terminal bud much larger (eg. peonies). Perennials that respond well to pruning: achillea, aconitums, adenophora, aegopodium, alcea, amsonia, anchuisia, arabis, artemisia, asters, boltonia, campanulas, centaurea, centranthus, clematis, coreopsis, mums, eupatorium, gypsophila, lobelias, monarda, perovskia, phlox paniculata, physostegia, platycodon, salvia, saponaria, stokesia, tanacetum, thalictrum, tradescantia, veronica.

****Important:** Do not prune these perennials until AFTER flowering: acanthus, alchemilla, aquilegia, aruncus, astilbe, crocosmia, delphinium, dictamnus, digitalis, filipendula, gaillardia, geraniums, geum, hellebore, hemerocallis, heuchera, hosta, iris, kniphofia, ligularia, limonium, papaver, polygonatum, verbascum.



JUNE 3, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

BALANCE AS OF JUNE 3, 2024 \$6,165.66

Receipts:

J. Carlson Growers, Inc. - Contribution -
Garden Walk \$ 250.00
\$6,415.66

Disbursements:

Charlie Refol - Garden Walk supplies \$ (88.00)

Ending Balance as of May 31, 2024 **\$6,327.66**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by **Mary Ann Miller**, Treasurer

Committee Reports

Awards - Elaine Parrovecchio - Had no Report.

Civic Conservation - Diane Donze - Had no Report.

Programs - Arch Smith reported that the Flanary Garden Tour will be on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 1:00pm and 5:30pm. Members should RSVP (by calling or texting) to Maura Flanary their time choice.

Arch then reported that Plantaholics is in charge of the Fall Frolic Gathering of Clubs this year. Cindy Rittenhouse, Arch Smith, Colleen Blanchard, and Maura Flanary are working on this event.

Publicity - Susan Schumacher - Susan had an idea that we could maybe have some of our Garden Walk/Garden Club cards set out at the county fairs near the floral design area.

Susan also said that any CRG member can post on Facebook, but she has to approve the member's post.

Garden Walk - Arch Smith reported that he has Garden Reps lined up for all the gardens, and he will be sending out a sign-up sheet for greeters for the gardens. Womanspace will get their own greeters for the Garden Walk since their members will be able to answer questions about Womanspace. We do need greeters for the other gardens.

Arch has "Garden Event Here" signs for each club to use at their events. However, the metal stands need to be longer, and Arch will secure longer stands. All the Garden Walk promotion cards have been delivered. Thanks to Plantaholics member, Becky Thalhofer, the billboard sign has been approved.

Lori and Tom Walsh have edited all the garden owners' descriptions, and each garden owner will send a picture of their garden. The descriptions and pictures are on the CRG website.

Arch announced that the Roscoe Gardening Club Walk will be held on June 15, 2024, from 1:00pm - 5:00pm. There are five gardens on their walk.

Horticulture - Pat Bellezza - Had no Report.

Hospitality - Bev Larson - Had no Report.

Newsletter - Karla Hardman reported that she will put the Roscoe Gardening Club Walk information in the newsletter, and she requested that Arch send her the Roscoe Garden Club's president's contact information. Deadline for items for the newsletter is this Friday.

Parliamentarian - Sarah Britton reported that things are "running smoothly".

Sunshine - Arch Smith said that Cindy Rittenhouse sent 1) a thank you card to John Carlson for his donation for the Garden Walk and 2) a sympathy card to Fiona Fordyce on the death of her mother.

Please call or text Cindy (815) 977-2090 if any cards should be sent to a member.

Ways & Means - Lynne Franzene-Lynde reported that we should all "bring our singles" for the raffles at the Flanary Garden Tour.

Website - Kathy Batzkall asked the hours of the Garden Walk so they can be posted on the Website. Hours are: 1:00pm - 8:00pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - Susan Schumacher showed some small herb garden markers that had been made on a 3-D printer. She suggested that we could have markers with the CRG logo made and sell them as a fundraiser. She said that they cost "only pennies to make". Arch will get a sample with the CRG logo for our next meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, July 1, 2024, at Mary's Market at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Duncan, Secretary

GARDEN WALK - LOCATIONS

The Gunn Garden

The front garden welcomes visitors with a boxwood hedge and an eclectic collection of specimen trees including a contorted larch, a tupelo tree, a large mugho pine, a contorted locust, a dwarf white pine, and a 'DeGroot's Spire' arborvitae. Two mixed flower beds include lilies and butterfly weed (*asclepias tuberosa*). A birdbath is surrounded by a planting of marigolds.

A curved path leads to the back garden. Climbing hydrangeas cover the century-old oaks shading this garden, which was started in 1995. Stone columns and iron gates accent the entrance. A twelve-foot dwarf concolor fir is just inside the gate and shades a patch of 'Green Sheen' pachysandra. In many areas throughout the landscape, ground covers are used instead of mulch; beds have been defined with metal edging. Yellow-green foliage brings light into this shady garden, where the Japanese forest grass contrasts with the large leaves of many varieties of hostas and ferns. Two yellow variegated Pagoda dogwoods provide a color echo.

Bloom and color peak in the spring. Five varieties of quince, Exbury hybrid azaleas, amelanchier, fothergilla gardenii, oakleaf hydrangea, cornelian cherry, clethra alnifolia, and tree peonies provide a succession of bloom. Flowering trees such as 'Louisa' weeping crabtree, 'Candied Apple' crabtree, two yellow magnolias, and redbuds add to this. Large plantings of blue Siberian squill, Virginia bluebells, and allium bulbs supplement the spring show.

After the spring blooms fade, many varieties of hostas, ferns, epimediums, arisaemas, Japanese toad lilies, and Japanese forest grasses take center stage.

The slate patio is surrounded by cherubs representing the four seasons. The two dwarf Japanese maples in large blue pots are overwintered in the garage along with potted boxwood. A fountain echoes the four seasons theme. Many other sculptural pieces can be seen throughout the garden, which is peaceful and inviting throughout the year.



Gunn Garden

GARDEN WALK - LOCATION

The Tumilowicz Garden

Our midcentury modern home is accented with many hardscape features that make it unique. Our front drive has an oasis of greenery with a Japanese pagoda at its midpoint, and gracing the front stone of the house is a large saucer magnolia tree. The home is situated on the Rock River with a great view of the Symbol sculpture. We also have our own sock monkey Symbol sculpture, surrounded by flowering shrubs.

There are several flowering crabapple trees and weeping and upright Japanese maples of all sizes throughout our lawn. We have installed a pond with a waterfall in the back area. On the south side there is a bottlebrush buckeye tree set in a planting area and the north side features a star magnolia tree.

We find it very peaceful to sit outside on our patio/deck, looking at the landscape and listening to the sounds of the river and our waterfall. We hope you enjoy your visit!



GARDEN WALK - LOCATION

The Pelouin Garden

When I moved in seven years ago the property had one bed of shrubs and a border around the house with...more shrubs. As an avid gardener that would never do, so it was time to embark on a multi-year improvement project. We tripled the size of the original bed and added five more. There now is a vegetable garden and a tranquil woodland water feature connected to our pool. Some beds follow themes (moon garden, hot colors bed, clematis) while others are typical cottage garden free-for-alls made up of perennials that took my fancy that particular year.

The specimens I include have mostly evolved to those which the rabbits ignore (yes, there are some!) But I still plant many others and just attempt to chase the critters out by madly chasing/yelling/clapping at them. Hence the "Crazy Rabbit Lady" sign that my son gave me two years ago.

The little water feature feeding into our pool is part of our backyard woodland setting that provides for a tranquil after-work experience. I have threatened to expand the beds to the extent that no grass would remain, but the lawn does make for a nice walkway between them.

Our yard also includes a Little Free Library accompanied by a reading bench, and we enjoy having many visitors.



GARDEN WALK - LOCATION

Womanspace Gardens

The Lilly Fernandez Meditation Garden, located in the clearing of a small aging pine forest, was begun in 1997 and has been developed over the years by volunteers who are members and friends of Womanspace.

More than 150 different types of plants, most of them perennials, enhance the seven berms in the garden. Plants were selected for attracting birds and butterflies, for their deer resistant qualities, low maintenance needs, and drought tolerance; as well as for fragrance and beauty. Due to the removal of two large trees central to the garden our formerly shady spaces are adjusting to more sun, so the hostas are welcoming new shrubs and flowers such as lilies, foxgloves, and coreopsis. Many of the ferns, hostas, hydrangeas, and ground covers have expanded into the margins of the garden and the woods beyond.

While at Womanspace, please wander around to see the many small garden spaces. Consider following the ribbon flags out to our eleven circuit stone labyrinth, modeled after the medieval Chartres Cathedral labyrinth. So much to see, so little time, so please plan to return. Gardens, prairie, and labyrinth are open dawn to dusk.



GARDEN WALK - LOCATION

The Eliason Garden

Our gardening journey began with the purchase of our house 28 years ago. The unusual pie-shaped lot with a deep back yard consisted of a small area of grass; the remainder was “natural” with an abundance of ash trees and weeds. A path was added and plants were chosen that would thrive in deep shade. Several years later the emerald ash borer hastened the removal of ash trees and changed the landscape to dappled shade. Shade-loving hostas, ferns, astilbes, and Japanese anemones adjusted to more sunlight. Meanwhile, sun-loving daylilies, coneflowers, oriental lilies, spring flowering shrubs, and—my favorite new plant, hellebores—have added gorgeous color.

Numerous planters placed throughout the yard are filled with annuals to entice hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. A variety of birds return every spring to nest in the myriad of houses provided for them. Visitors are encouraged to sit on a bench and enjoy the plants and wildlife. Gardening is a labor of love, directed by Mother Nature, meant to be enjoyed by all.



Eliason Garden

GARDEN WALK - LOCATION

The Hade Garden

Upon entering the garden your eye is drawn up a gentle slope. A limestone wall, covered with sedums, defines this middle of three levels. Bird's nest spruce, blue rug juniper, andorra juniper, false cypress, and a 'Bloodgood' Japanese maple along with a large boulder and two lanterns are surrounded by 'All Gold' hakone grasses. Asiatic lilies, heucheras, 'King Kong' ligularias, and 'P.J.M.' rhododendrons provide color.

Limestone steps reach the upper level. Oak leaf, 'Lemon Daddy', and climbing hydrangeas line the path. An American hazelnut tree lends shade for hollies, azaleas, yews, and more hakone grasses. Filling in along the way are ageratina (snakeroot), 'Chocolate Chip' ajuga, prairie trillium, and jack-in-the-pulpit.

The sunny third level supports coneflowers, queen of the prairies, butterfly weeds, and phlox. Coming back down the slope are several oaks, 'Lemon Thread' false cypresses, and blue spruces. Two 'Susan' magnolias backdrop 'Big Daddy', 'Sum and Substance', and 'Blue Angel' hostas, and a variegated red twig dogwood. A pond and Passaro's birds fountain are viewed on this middle level from a limestone patio. Surrounding the pond is another 'Bloodgood' Japanese maple, 'Flaming Mound' spirea, fountain grass, Japanese silver grass and a 'Leonard Messel' magnolia.

Drawing visitors down to the lowest level is a 'Gentsch White' Canadian hemlock, 'Strawberry Sundae' hydrangea, and a dappled willow. A narrow path bordered by another wall with pachysandra and ornamental onion leads to a small patio. Cotoneaster and 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd' hostas surround another small fountain.

Although the garden is on three levels, visitors should find the slopes easily walkable.



GARDEN WALK - LOCATION

The Schmitt Garden

Our gardening adventure began twenty-eight years ago when we inherited basic foundational landscaping and neglected flower beds.

Since then, through numerous projects, we have transformed them into our version of an English country style garden, inspired by our Tudor home. Soil erosion issues prompted the installation of an English ivy slope with a short stone retainment wall. Enclosing the backyard created a private haven and afforded opportunities for climbers and an arbor entrance. We also enlarged the original flagstone patio to accommodate multiple seating areas.

Our plant choices are influenced by an abundance of filtered shade from the mature trees on the neighbors' and our property. These trees include towering pines, maples, oaks, a black walnut and a copper beech. Boxwood hedges neatly frame a variety of roses, hostas, specimen trees, and shrubs. We have also incorporated fourteen varieties of hydrangeas including 'Tuff Stuff', 'Limetta', 'Firelight Tidbit', and 'Strawberry Sundae.' A variety of containers dot the garden with annual color. One glorious bed of almost full sun supports a sea of peonies, goldenrod, echinacea, milkweed, Joe Pye weed, 'Sweet Autumn' clematis, baptisia, and morning glories that attract butterflies and hummingbirds daily.

Throughout the garden you'll find scattered seating areas, perfect for enjoying the view of our unique garden ornaments and statuary collected over the years. A particular favorite is a replica of Sylvia Shaw-Judson's "Little Gardener" bronze statue. Shaw-Judson was a Chicago based sculptor born at the turn of the twentieth century. Crafted in 1935, the original statue was in the Rose Garden at the White House during the Kennedy years and remains on display in the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden at the White House today.



GARDEN HINTS / MISCELLANEOUS



Vanilla body spray works wonderfully to keep gnats and mosquitos away.

WANTED

For July newsletter



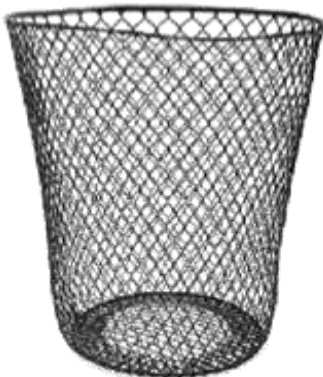
your best past Garden Walk photos

submit before July 1st



SHARE YOUR GARDEN TIPS

Dollar Store wire waste paper baskets make a perfect way to protect your plants from garden pests. They come in various sizes and shapes. Either use them as is or cut the bottom out to make a protective wire sleeve. An inexpensive way to protect your plants from unwanted garden pests.



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HINTS, THOUGHTS or SUGGESTIONS...

Rhubarb—remember to pull rhubarb stalks out. NEVER cut the stalks.

Sharing seed tricks when saving seeds from your garden plants to have for the next year.

Any other interesting hints, thoughts, suggestions that have been on your mind??

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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.

Yoga In The Garden

Saturdays – June 15 & 29, July 13 & 27, August 10 & 24, September 7 & 21

Join Instructor Stephanie for Yoga in the Garden in Klehm's beautiful and peaceful Fountain Garden!

NATURE AT THE CONFLUENCE

306 Dickop Street,
South Beloit, IL

<https://natureattheconfluence.com/>

Nature Night Hike

June 16 @ 9:00 pm - 10:30 pm - FREE

Discover creatures of the night on this guided nature hike. Timed to match the emergence of fireflies and glow worms, the blooming of common milkweed, and the calls of frogs and barred owls, this hike will explore the sights, sounds and smells of a summer evening. The program will include one mile of hiking on unpaved trails. Flashlights are not allowed, as we will practice letting our eyes adjust to the light of night.

This is a free program offered in partnership with Rock County Conservationists and there is no registration. All ages are welcome, including families and scout groups. In the event of severe weather, please check natureattheconfluence.com for cancellation notice.

Monarch Monitoring

Tuesdays, June 4th - August 6th,

4:00 pm - 4:45 pm - FREE

Become a community scientist by joining our staff in monitoring our monarch population. Drop in on Tuesdays at 4:00pm for a walk through a prairie where we practice protocol from the Monarch Larvae Monitoring Program. All ages welcome, no prior experience necessary. This series is free and there is no registration.

NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY

1354 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, IL

<https://nicholasconservatory.com/>

Food Truck Tuesdays

Enjoy tasty eats from as many as 15 local food trucks each week, while soaking in the beauty of the gardens! Trolley rides run throughout the night to help people enjoy the riverfront and get around the campus.

May 7 - August 27, 2024

4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

September 3 - October 29, 2024

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER

8786 Montague Road, Rockford IL

seversondells.com

Many activities available for children and grandchildren. The grandchildren/grandparent events are wonderful. Give them a try. Please check the Severson website.

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford

andersongardens.org

Tuesday Evening in the Gardens

5pm - 8pm

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

Join family and friends 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

Please check the Wild Ones website for June events.