

# COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

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Editor: Karla Hardman

**JULY 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](http://councilofrockfordgardeners.org)

## Email editor:

[CRGnews815@gmail.com](mailto: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 Gardener's Free Garden Walk is just a few days away. The Garden Walk will always have a very special meaning to me.

About 15 years ago, Charlie and I purchased our current home. My mother and stepfather were looking with us and encouraged us to look at a home on Bordeaux. The house was quite small compared to what we had been looking at. Standing in the master bedroom which was about a third of the size of our condo's master bedroom, my mother with her great wisdom said, "well you don't need to be doing cartwheels in your bedroom."

We ended up purchasing the home, which had several trees and shrubs in the front with lots of ground cover. The back yard had nothing but five grown trees.

We started gardening and one day we noticed the street filling up with cars and everyone going to our neighbor's home. It got the best of us so we investigated. There was a banner out front that said Council of Rockford Gardner's Garden Walk. Amazed, we ended up grabbing a map and going to the other gardens.

The next year Charlie took the day off and we went again. We were very impressed with all the gardens, but debating about going to the last garden listed as it seemed far. It did say "Fairy Garden" which we had never heard of before. Charlie wanted to go see it. We got to the garden and three very kind ladies Mary Ann Miller, Grace Saunders and Jane Gallick greeted us. We spoke with them for a few moments, and they ask if we were gardeners which we replied yes. They asked if they could come see our garden which we agreed and that one "yes" changed our lives. We have met and become friends with so many great people and gardening has become such a big part of our lives. Oh, we did see the fairy garden which consisted of about one square foot of space with a fairy sitting on a bench. I can still hear Charlie's voice echoing throughout the crowded backyard saying, "THAT'S IT?"

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# GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

In June Wildflowers enjoyed a presentation by Michelle Cox at Landscape Connection on "High Impact, Low Maintenance Plants".



# GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

## FLANARY 2024 GARDEN TOUR

120 individuals toured and enjoyed time outdoors in the Flanary Garden. Many thanks to the Flanary Family for opening up their Garden for ALL to enjoy!!



# GARDEN CLUB EVENTS



**Flanary  
2024  
Garden  
Tour**



# LICHENS

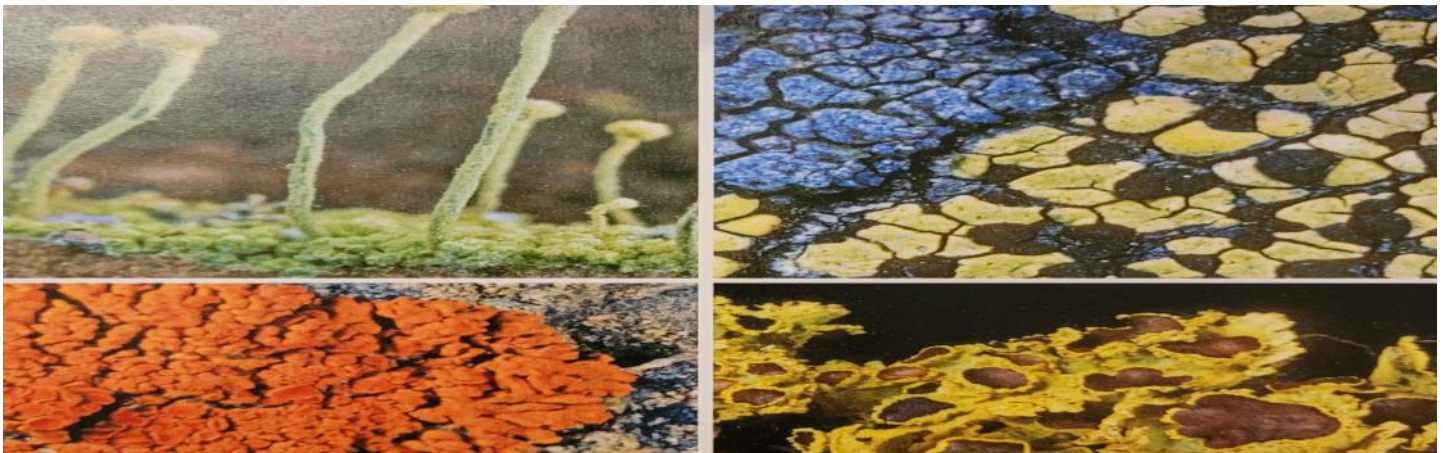
## ONE OF THE OLDEST ORGANISMS ON EARTH

**Pat Belezza, Wildflower member and Horticulture Co-chair**

**T**hose fuzzy growths on trees and rocks—are they lichens, mosses, or algae? The terms are not interchangeable. Each term refers to a separate organism. Mosses are singular organisms; lichens are composites. Only mosses are plants. Mosses are believed to be the ancestors of the plants we see today. Lichens on the other hand are not similar in any way to mosses or other members of the plant kingdom. Lichens are completely different. They do not have any roots, stems or leaves and their chloroplasts are contained only in the algae on the top surface of the lichen. A lichen is formed when fungi and algae (or cyanobacteria) enter into a symbiotic partnership. The alga provides nutrients and the fungus provides a body for the alga. Lichens are everywhere. There are around 15,000 species and one can find them in alpine regions, in intertidal zones, on the sides of old buildings and even on rotting clothes. As a primary colonizing species in most environments, lichens influence soil formation through a process of decomposition which helps create the right conditions for other organisms to occupy the area. Lichens are slow growing, expanding by millimeters even in years of favorable conditions.

Lichens are often keystone species: They provide food for some animals and shelter for others. They protect trees in inclement conditions. Because lichens enable algae to live all over the world in many different climates, they also provide means to convert carbon dioxide in the atmosphere through photosynthesis into oxygen which we all need to survive. Ranging from small clusters to vast, fiber-like tendrils, lichens benefit humanity by their ability to absorb everything in their atmosphere, especially pollutants. Any heavy metals (such as cadmium), carbon, sulfur, or other pollutants are absorbed into the lichen body. Scientists can extract these toxins and determine the levels that are present in our atmosphere. Science is just beginning to understand their capacity for renewal.

There are about 3,600 lichen species in North America. The US Forest Service National Lichens and Air Quality Database and Clearinghouse helps federal land managers assess the ecological impacts of air pollutants using lichen data. Map lichen (*Rhizocarpon geographicum*) in the Arctic is believed to be about 8,600 years old, making it one of the oldest organisms on earth. As essential as they are, lichens are also just fun and beautiful to look at.



# JULY 1, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

<b>BALANCE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024</b> .....	<b>\$6,327.66</b>		<b>\$6,951.16</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>		<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Flanary raffle proceeds .....	408.00	Supplies—Rock River Valley Pantry .....	\$ 20.00
New Plantaholics members .....	30.00	Charlie Refol—Signs Garden Walk .....	92.46
Check for t-shirt .....	<u>185.50</u>	Pig Minds - t-shirt sales .....	185.00
	<u>623.50</u>	<b>Ending Balance as of June 30, 2024</b> .....	<b>\$6,327.66</b>

## TREASURER’S REPORT

Submitted by **Mary Ann Miller**, Treasurer

## Committee Reports

**Awards - Elaine Parrovecchio** - Had no Report.

**Civic Conservation - Diane Donze** reported that she gets emails from Habitat, and they are in the midst of the summer construction season. Habitat purchased 31 lots in back of Auburn High School for \$31,000, and they will be building there over the next four to five years. The approved homeowner will get a 0% mortgage. Those working on a house include a master carpenter, volunteers, and the new homeowner. Diane said that there is a lot going on.

**Programs - Arch Smith** reported that we had the Flanary Garden Tour on June 11. Arch has ordered two gifts for the Flanarys, and they should be ready soon. Around 120 people attended the tour. Each tour had approximately 60 people. Past tours or events had: 75 members for the Fall Frolic, 120 for the Behr Garden Tour, 60-65 for the Christmas Sedona event, 85 at the Belvidere Barn event, and now 120 for the Flanary Garden Tour. Arch reported that CRG events average 92.5 members. Arch reported that he has a couple of gardens in mind for next year and the following year. Diane Donze is helping secure Mary Ann Smith’s garden for next year’s tour. Next, Arch asked whether or not members wanted a Christmas or Holiday CRG gathering or event? Different suggestions were made by members, and Maura Flanary thought any event should have a “charity component”. Discussions were held regarding having a craft at the event, and it was agreed that spouses would not be interested in a craft. It was suggested that we could have a social gathering, perhaps at Klehm, and members could bring food. The Program Committee will work on it. Arch reported that the Fall Frolic event is planned each year by one of the four garden clubs, and Plantaholics is in charge of the Fall Frolic Gathering 4 of Clubs this year. Committee members will meet after July 4th and the Garden Walk to work on that event.

**Publicity - Susan Schumacher** reported that she has been publicizing the Garden Walk on Facebook, and she posted the addresses yesterday. The map is available online.

**Garden Walk - Arch Smith** reported that the Garden Walk is fast approaching. It is a week from Wednesday. Arch reported that everything is in order for the Garden Walk. We have new Garden Walk signs and stakes. Arch did a radio interview with Steve Summers regarding the Garden Walk. The Rock River

Times will have an article about the Garden Walk. Thanks to Becky Thalhofer, the billboard by Cherry Vale advertises the Garden Walk 1,500 times per day. The Garden Walk promotion cards have been delivered to the local garden centers. The garden reps are getting greeters. Five of the photo shots of the gardens are done, and Mary Stanton is working on the seven garden stones. Benson Stone donated the stones. Arch is doing a 15-20 minutes power point presentation to the Kiwanis Club regarding the Garden Walk.

**Horticulture - Pat Bellezza** - Had no Report. CRG agreed that Pat is doing a beautiful job.

**Hospitality - Bev Larson** requested that members please respond to her as to whether or not you will be attending. Arch reminded Bev that we do not have a meeting in August, and the CRG September meeting will be on September 9 since September 2 is Labor Day.

**Newsletter - Arch Smith** reported that all information is due to Karla on Friday.

**Parliamentarian - Sarah Britton** reported that “all the seats are filled”.

**Sunshine - Arch Smith** said that Cindy Rittenhouse sent 1) a sympathy card to Amy Seiler for the death of her mother, 2) a get-well card to Ginny Hatwich for her broken wrist, 3) a get-well card to Deb Jurs for her surgery, and a get-well card to Jan Bowman for her hip surgery.

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

**Ways & Means - Lynne Franzene** thanked the Flanarys for the donation from the raffle at their garden tour. Lynne asked if we were charging at any upcoming events so we would make money. We are doing a “scholarship donation jar” at our upcoming Garden Walk.

**Website – Arch Smith** reported that Kathy Batzkall had no report.

**There will not be a meeting in August. Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 9, 2024, at Mary’s Market at 9:30am.**

Respectfully submitted, **Jan Duncan**, Secretary

# GARDEN HINTS / MISCELLANEOUS

## CRG GARDEN WALK 2024



### FEATURED GARDENS

- 1.) WOMANSPACE 3333 Maria Linden Dr. Rockford, Illinois 61114
- 2.) Peloquin & Wild Garden 1615 Oakforest Dr Rockford, IL 61107
- 3.) Eliason Garden 1884 Plum Orchard Lane Rockford, Illinois 61107
- 4.) Tumilowicz Garden 2121 Harlem Blvd Rockford, Illinois 61103
- 5.) Schmitt Garden 1912 Clinton St. Rockford, Illinois 61103
- 6.) Hade Garden 39 Briar Ln Rockford, Illinois 61103
- 7.) Gunn Garden 22 Johns Woods Drive Rockford, Illinois 61103

## COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS WED. JULY 10th 1pm - 8pm



**Being a Garden Walk access for individuals with mobility issues may be limited at certain gardens. Most gardens have inclines, steps, narrow paths and uneven terrain. Gardens 1, 2 and 7 offer the least difficulties of all of our featured gardens on the Garden Walk this year.**

### Garden Walk 2024 - Addresses

#### 1.) WOMANSPACE

3333 Maria Linden Dr. Rockford, Illinois 61114

#### 2.) Margie Peloquin & Paul Wild

1615 Oakforest Dr Rockford, IL 61107

#### 3.) Kathy and Jon Eliason

1884 Plum Orchard Lane Rockford, Illinois 61107

#### 4.) Dr Kris & Patti Tumilowicz

2121 Harlem Blvd Rockford, Illinois 61103

#### 5.) Kimberly & David Schmitt

1912 Clinton St. Rockford, Illinois 61103

#### 6.) Ron and Jody Hade

39 Briar Lane Rockford, IL 61103

#### 7.) James Gunn

22 Johns Woods Drive Rockford, Illinois 61103

# GARDEN HINTS / MISCELLANEOUS



## Garden Walk

**Sunday, July 21st 10am-5pm**

**Join us for our Garden Walk! Tickets \$7.00**

Tickets \$5.00 in advance, available at the library.

Door Prizes available!

**The library community room will be open for drinks, cookies, bathrooms and air conditioning. Books and plants for sale plus displays will also be available**

**Check out the Winnebago Garden Club Facebook page, filled with information about local events, plants, club activities, speakers, and much more. Such as the annual Plant Sale held on the first Friday and Saturday in June.**

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

**Addresses are down below:**

**Bergersen**  
703 Jarvis Dr.  
(Winnebago)

**Hilton**  
590 S. Spielman Rd  
(Pecatonica)

**Hattoon**  
17166 Kelley Rd  
(Pecatonica)

**Flohr**  
4320 S. Spielman Rd  
(Leaf River)

**Sanders/DeGunther**  
2842 Osborne Rd  
(Winnebago)

Winnebago IL 61088, 210 N. Elida St.

## WANTED

for September  
newsletter



**your favorite pet in  
your garden photo**

submit before  
September 1st

HINTS, THOUGHTS  
or SUGGESTIONS...

Rhubarb—remember to pull

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



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE GARDEN EVENTS

## **KLEHM ABORETUM & BOTANIC GARDEN**

2715 S. Main St, Rockford, IL

[www.klehm.org](http://www.klehm.org) | 815-965-8146 | [info@klehm.org](mailto:info@klehm.org)

*Registration may be required for events. See website.*

### **Habitat: Protecting Habitats Protects Life Exhibit**

Habitat consists of 14 different displays, sculptures and interactive components crafted by local artists, trades-people, volunteers, and Klehm's own staff.

### **Landscaping with Native Plants**

Wednesday, June 26, 6pm - 7:30pm

Join Dave Neu at this in-person program and gain skills to create landscape designs in harmony with nature.

### **Yoga in the Garden**

Saturdays - 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/>

### **Bird Club**

Friday, July 12, 7:30am - 9:00am

Practice the art of noticing details while connecting with nature. Beginner-friendly bird outing includes a intro to birding and guided stroll on the Rock River Birding & Hiking Trail. Tickets \$5.00

Please check the Confluence website for other July events.

## **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

### **Sculpture Walk**

Thursday, July 11, 10:30am - 12:00pm

Join the volunteers for a walk along the Rock River Rec Path to see a variety of public sculptures that grace the NCG's campus. Free but must register.

### **Walking Outdoor Garden Tour**

Thursday, July 25, 10:30am - 12:00pm

Tour the NC outdoor gardens with a volunteer docent. Free but must register.

## **SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER**

8786 Montague Road, Rockford IL

[seversondells.com](http://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](http://andersongardens.org)

### **Tuesday Evening in the Gardens**

Tuesday Evening, 5:00pm - 8:00pm, 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 July events.