

COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

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Editor: Karla Hardman

NOVEMBER 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

November is always a month to reflect on what we're most thankful for. CRG, as an organization has a very long list. Just to name a few, we are thankful for all those who have volunteered in a leadership role, whether it is for an individual club or a position on the CRG Council. We all appreciate your time and efforts. Members are also very thankful for individuals who volunteer to host or oversee a monthly meeting. And finally, we are thankful for all the members who participate. There's nothing worse than spending a great deal of time planning something and no one responds or attends. So, thank you all for making CRG such a wonderfully welcoming group.

Charlie and I and my sister and her husband were all fortunate enough to visit my oldest brother for his 70th birthday in California. My brother Jim and his wife Jeri have a spectacular tropical paradise they have created at their home. It features multiple species of palm trees, an array of different roses, some spectacular bougainvillea plants, hibiscus of every color and a 50 plus year old large jade tree. I'm always very thankful for the opportunity to visit other gardens and theirs was certainly a treat!

My brother and Jeri took us all to the Ruth Bancroft Garden which was rated as "the most beautiful garden in the world" by TripAdvisor. Now we have all seen a lot of beautiful gardens in our lives, but to me this was not the most beautiful garden in the world, not even close. However, with that being said, it was a site to see with its 10-foot tall agave plants and it's 20-foot tall cactus. I'll share their website for you to see: <https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/>. And just for fun I'm going to include a picture of my 5 foot 9" brother standing next to my 7 foot 1" brother-in-law overlooking Mount Diablo.

Now beauty is certainly in the eye of the beholder. In my humble opinion, the Rockford area has some of the most beautiful gardens anywhere. Whether it's a public or a private garden we are truly surrounded by beauty. That's what makes having garden clubs in an area so blessed with beauty something we should all be most thankful for!



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

DISTRICT 1 LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER
2024

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The District I meeting was hosted by Woodstock Garden Club, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Arch and Susan Schumacher attended the meeting.

Right: Raffle gift (house plants in wooden planter box) chosen by Lynne Franzene-Lynde and Karla Hardman was very unusual and was a very popular raffle prize. Donated by Council of Rockford Gardeners..



You're Invited!

Members and Guests

*Spirits
and
Sparkles*



**Council of Rockford Gardeners
Christmas Party**

**Wednesday, December 11th
5:30 to 8 pm**

Raffles* ★ *Prizes* ★ *Activities

**Please bring dish to share and
DONATIONS of hats, gloves, socks, etc.**

**RSVP to Cindy
815-977-2090**

**Hosted at The Landscape Connection
4472 South Mulford Road, Rockford**

Kathy Batzkall

GARDEN CLUB EVENTS



Seedlings
enjoyed a gorgeous day at Anderson Japanese Gardens October 21.



GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

Wildflowers enjoyed a beautiful fall day at Edwards Apple Orchard in October. Andy Edwards talked about the history of Edwards Apple Orchard.



Miyawaki Forests— Could We Start One in Rockford?

Pat Belezza, Wildflower member and Horticulture Co-chair

In 1970 Akira Miyawaki introduced his idea of “pocket forests,” or small areas of planted native trees, after ones he observed in cultivated temple gardens around shrines in Japan. His method is to densely plant plots of native trees into wasted inner city areas to produce mature forests in just a few decades instead of centuries. Before his death in 2021, he oversaw the planting of over 40 million trees in 15 countries including Japan, India, and Europe. In 2021, Cambridge, Massachusetts was the first city in the U.S. to plant a pocket forest. It was a collaboration between the city and two independent groups. According to Maya Dutta, assistant director of regenerative projects for Biodiversity for a Livable Climate, “Because they can be created in such a small area, they are great options for communities that have been neglected or are experiencing intense pollution.”

One major reason people have loved this idea is that pocket forests can be planted almost anywhere.

All that is needed is about six parking spaces’ worth of land. Just one abandoned lot can be returned to nature and can make a wonderful difference in a short amount of time.

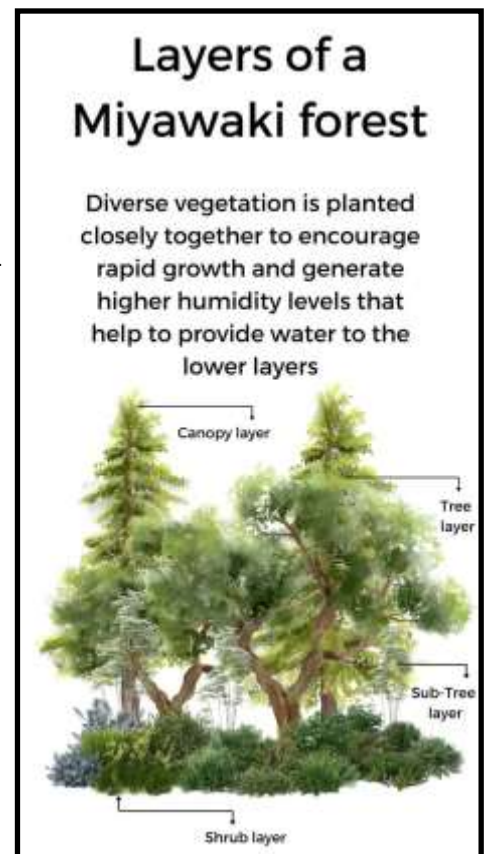
In Daneyh Park, Boston, about 1,400 trees and shrubs native to the area (aspens, sumac, tulip trees) were used. One hundred volunteers spent about eight hours planting the natives. The existing soil was amended to help support the growth of the plants. In just two years the tallest trees had reached 18 feet. Because the trees and shrubs are so densely planted, the competition for sunlight, water, and nutrients causes them to grow rapidly. A team of volunteers keeps the weeds down until eventually the forest maintains itself. It only requires support for two to three years; then the canopy becomes dense enough to suppress weeds. Over time birds, bees and other pollinators and local wildlife should populate it to create a natural community. The success of the Daneyh Park project has kick-started a handful of other micro forests in the Boston area, including two at local high schools.

Miyawaki forests, once established, can remove heat from the air and help cool the surrounding area as well as help filter air pollution and emit oxygen. The trees add beauty and help remove some of the soil pollutants from the formerly polluted ground. As it is with most good things, these forests are not free. The Daneyh Park project cost Cambridge \$18,000 for plants and soil amendments. But the benefits have made them well worth the cost. Their great appeal and success in inner city blights has spread to other places: Griffith Park in Los Angeles, which covers about 900 square feet has become a haven for wildlife—many species of insects, birds, lizards and squirrels have migrated to the forest for food and shelter. In Washington state a microforest was created at Yakama Nation Corrections and Rehab Facility.

I can picture many places in our own city that could benefit from the ecological and aesthetic worth of a Miyawaki Forest.

(Editor’s note: As of 2022 in Cook County, IL a Miyawaki forest was planted:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ILCOOK/bulletins/318bb94>)



NOVEMBER 4, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of 10/1/2024	\$6,563.80
Receipts: None	<u>0.00</u>
	\$6,563.80
Disbursements:	
U of I/ Winnebago Co. Fair (2 - \$25 scholarships).....	<u>50.00</u>
Ending Balance as of October 31, 2024	\$6,513.80
Submitted by Mary Ann Miller , Treasurer	



Committee Reports

Awards - Elaine Parrovecchio - No report.

Civic Conservation - Diane Donze - No report.

Programs - Arch Smith reported that the CRG gathering "Spirits and Sparkle" will be held at the Landscape Connection on Wednesday, December 11, from 5:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. He confirmed that we can have alcohol at the event. Members can each bring a guest.

The installation of officers will be held on March 3 at noon at Tavern on Clark.

Arch has one garden lined up for the Summer Stroll and will maybe have a second one.

The Fall Frolic will be hosted by Potpourri next year.

Arch has requested that each club president send him six of the club's best photos of club events for a power point presentation.

Publicity - Arch reported that **Susan Schumacher** wants to know if we would like to do the Valentine arrangements again at River Bluff Nursing Home. They were so appreciative of the arrangements last year. She has saved all the supplies, and we would only need to spend maybe \$50 for additional supplies. We will wait until next month to make a motion to continue this project since there are so few board members in attendance today.

Horticulture - Pat Bellezza had no report. Members told her that they enjoyed her articles.

Hospitality - Bev Larson reported that she will make reservations for December and January here at Mary's Market. There is no CRG meeting in February, and the March meeting is the installation of officers at Tavern on Clark at noon.

Newsletter - Kathy Batzkall reported that she would be doing the Newsletter for November and December since Karla Hardman will be having hip surgery. All information and pictures should be emailed to Kathy (katbat2009@gmail.com) or CRG News (crgnews815@gmail.com)

Parliamentarian - Sarah Britton No report.

Garden Walk – Arch Smith reported that he has five gardens for sure for the 2025 Garden Walk, and he is working on a sixth. They are spread out across the city.

Sunshine - Cindy Rittenhouse - No report. Please call or text Cindy (815) 977-2090 if a card should be sent to a member.

Arch reported that his stepfather Frank printed 60 cards for Cindy to use.

Ways & Means - Lynne Franzene - No report. Arch said that he would check on a class for flower arranging that we could possibly host to raise money for our scholarships.

Website – Kathy Batzkall - asked Arch how to decrease the size of photos. Arch said he would ask his stepfather Frank and/or two friends, Fred and Adam, that are IT specialists how to do it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mary Ann Miller addressed the question raised regarding the cutoff date for collecting club dues for the current year. Mary Ann went back through past minutes and found the following from our September 12, 2022 meeting:

"A question was asked about club dues and at what month the club would discount the dues for the current year. A portion of club dues (\$15) has to be paid to Council, and Council has to send a portion of that \$15 to GCI. A new member can attend three meetings before paying dues for the current year. A discussion was then held.

A motion was made that after October 1 of the current year, dues do not need to be paid to the club and that prospective members can attend three meetings in the current year before being required to pay dues for that year. New members can start their membership January 1 of the following year.

Another discussion was held regarding a couples' or spouse membership discount. Mary Ann Miller explained that the spouse's membership to GCI is only \$1 – instead of the full amount paid by the first member. It was agreed that the spouse would still pay the full \$25 dues to the club he or she is joining."

NEW BUSINESS

Lynne Franzene-Lynde mentioned the bird banding at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory in Rockton and said it is an idea for other club meetings. It is suggested that the best time to go is in the morning in the spring. She reported that it is very interesting.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 2, 2024, at Mary's Market at 9:30 A.M.

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

Gratitude Tranquility Walk

Adults: \$10/person; Klehm Members: \$5/person
Saturday, November 30, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Location: Clarcor Pavilion

*Please plan to arrive a few minutes early
as the gates will close promptly at 6:00 PM.*

Registration required. See website.

NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY

1354 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, IL
<https://nicholasconservatory.com/>

All Aglow Holiday Display

November 30, 2024 - January 6, 2025
Lights are on dusk to dawn. This is a FREE event for the public, but donations are appreciated

Sinnissippi Station

December 7, 2024 - January 26, 2025
A variety of trains and trolleys run down, around, and above you—all in the lush, tropical setting of the Nicholas Conservatory. Regular admission fee.



SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER

8786 Montague Road, Rockford IL
seversondells.com

Discover the Magic of Luminaria

December 13 & 14, 5pm - 9pm. FREE!

As the sun sets, witness the magic unfold as Luminaria lights twinkle along our pathways.
Live music, refreshments.

ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS

318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford
andersongardens.org

Illuminated

December 7 – December 15
Open Thursday – Sunday | 5:00 – 8:30 PM
Open Nightly Starting December 18 – January 5
5:00 – 8:30 PM

Illuminated will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's day.
Non-Member: Adult \$14 | Senior \$13 | Student & Military \$12 | Five & Under FREE
Basic Member: \$8 | Premium Member: FREE



MIDWAY VILLAGE

6799 Guilford Road, Rockford IL
MidwayVillage.com

Christmas in the Trenches

Re-enactment of the World War I Christmas Truce
Saturday, December 14
Adults : \$12, Child (Ages 5-12): \$10,
Senior (Age 62+): \$11

NATURE AT THE CONFLUENCE

306 Dickop Street, South Beloit, IL
<https://natureattheconfluence.com/>

Holiday Tree Lighting

December 6, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Activities. FREE event.

Winter Solstice Rejuvenation

December 21 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
\$20, tickets available online



A NIGHT OF HOLIDAY MAGIC

THURS. NOV. 21st 5-8 PM

**You & one guest are invited to enjoy a
VIP shopping experience with early
access to our Holiday Collections,
The Fresh Market & Walk-Up
Workshops. Sip & nibble on festive
drinks and appetizers & take
advantage of One-Night-Only Deals.**

**Thank you for your continued support & we
can't wait to spend this magical night with you!**

**The Landscape Connection
4472 S. Mulford Rd
Rockford, IL 61109**

**This event is by invite only and this card
is your ticket in!**