

# COUNCIL OF ROCKFORD GARDENERS, INC.

Organized 3/21/1980

E-Issue V12 Issue 8

Editor: Karla Hardman

OCTOBER 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

Words can't express our gratitude to Jim and Donna Bielfuss for hosting CRG at their magnificent Grangette barn for our Fall Frolic gathering of clubs celebration. We had approximately 90 members and their guests attend this annual event. Everyone seemed to have a great time exploring the barn and the food was delicious and plentiful! A big CRG thank you goes out to Mary Jo & Steve Hall for their original introduction to Jim and Donna. Another thanks goes to the Plantaholics committee for organizing this most enjoyable evening. A final thank you goes to Emily Flanary and Aaron Johnson for their willingness to always lend a welcomed hand.

Klehm's Eerie Autumn Lights is off and running as a very successful event. Director Alex Millis and his staff have really created a very special Fall extravaganza. There is literally color lights and family friendly Halloween displays to see...everywhere! They have the 2 largest pumpkins in the Rockford area grown by Stillman Valley grower Teresa Miller. One pumpkin is about 1200lbs and the largest is almost 1900lbs. To the many CRG volunteers your help is most appreciated. Other members can still volunteer by simply contacting me. Even if you can't volunteer, you should go experience the spectacular Klehm's Eerie Autumn Lights!

It's hard to believe November is just around the corner. November is one of the most important months on any Garden Club's calendar. All the monthly meeting ideas come from your club's November planning meetings. So, put on your garden thinking caps and come up with an amazing schedule for all to enjoy! Steal some ideas from other CRG clubs. Feel free to contact me for a private garden tour that I'd be happy to arrange for your club.

Finally, CRG Council breakfast meetings are always open to any CRG member. We meet at Mary's Market on East State Street the first Monday of each month. Anyone interested in being more involved with Council doings, I'm sure there is a place just for you. New faces and fresh ideas are always welcomed!

# GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

SEPTEMBER  
2024

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[CRGnews815@gmail.com](mailto:CRGnews815@gmail.com)



Plantaholics had an educational meeting & tour of "Keep Illinois Beautiful" given by Corinne Sosso "Education Director" & planned by Diane Donze. Wow! We all learned a lot! Thanks ladies !!



CRG events always bring out smiles & laughter; education & camaraderie.



# GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

**Wildflowers enjoyed a tour of Indian Hill Manor (now Esta Barrett Manor) and Gardens in Rockford. It is on the National Registry of Historic Places, and the house and gardens are being restored.**



**What a beautiful Day!**



# GARDEN CLUB EVENTS



Potpourri members enjoyed a beautiful day out on the prairie, the Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve.



Members also enjoyed seeing the beautiful mural in downtown Byron drawn by our famous Lisa Frost!!

# GARDEN CLUB EVENTS



Great fun creating cement pumpkins with the Seedling Club under the leadership of Lynne!!!



One of the hottest days of the summer but who minded with hands in wet cement and water.

# GARDEN CLUB EVENTS



2024 CRG Fall Frolic



Fun, smiles, laughter, friendship, food and beverages. What a wonderful time when CRG members get together!

Great fun at this year's CRG Fall Frolic. Thank you to Jim & Donna for hosting us again!! This was a wonderful event past & present members and officers. Surprise guest was Michelle Lyons, she started Plantaholics.



# Saving Tips For Flower Seeds

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

Wait until the flowers have finished blooming and the petals have dropped. Allow the seed heads to mature and dry on the plant. Cut the seed heads with a clean knife or scissors and lay them out to dry on a flat, clean surface. Alternatively, you can place the seed heads in a paper bag and allow them to dry there for about 1 week. If the seed pods or heads haven't opened on their own, place them in a paper bag (label the bag with flower name) and shake vigorously for 20 - 30 seconds. For smaller seeds, pour the bag contents through a fine mesh strainer over a paper plate. The result will be seed plus some chaff. Put this mix back into the paper bag with a few pebbles or nuts and bolts and reshake for 20-30 seconds. Strain this again over a paper plate and you will have about 95% seed.

To store, dry the seeds completely. Store each variety separately in paper envelopes labeled with flower type, color, and any relevant notes. Place the envelope into a sealed glass or plastic container with a desiccant (silica gel or powdered milk) to prevent the seeds from molding. Place the containers in a cool, dry, dark place (fridge, dark closet, cool, dry basement). Seeds germinate better if used within 1 year. Don't expect perennial seeds to flower the first year. They will spend this time developing good roots and leaves.

If you want to test for seed fertility, pour the seeds into a container of water and leave for 15 minutes. The seeds that sink are fertile. The floaters are not. Save the fertile seeds and dry them thoroughly, label the envelopes and store. Note: if you save seeds from hybrid varieties, the new plants will likely not resemble their parents. On the other hand, it can be fun to see what you will get.

Some of the easiest perennials to reproduce from seeds:

|                  |            |                |          |
|------------------|------------|----------------|----------|
| Blackberry Lily  | Hollyhock  | Oriental Poppy | Tickseed |
| Black-eyed Susan | Coneflower | Platycodon     |          |
| Beebalm          | Columbine  | Penstemon      |          |
| Allium           | Delphinium | Shasta Daisy   |          |
| Anise Hyssop     | Lupine     | Salvia         |          |

Easy annuals:

|            |           |             |               |
|------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| Sunflowers | Foxgloves | Calendula   | Morning Glory |
| Dianthus   | Zinnia    | Bread Poppy | Nasturtium    |
| Cosmos     | Marigold  | Cleome      |               |



# OCTOBER 7, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Balance as of October 1, 2024 ..... \$6,653.70  
Receipts: None ..... 0.00  
..... \$6,574.80  
Disbursements:  
State of IL - Annual Report (501C3 fee) ..... 11.00  
Ending Balance as of September 30, 2024 ..... \$6,563.80

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by **Mary Ann Miller**, Treasurer

## Committee Reports

**Awards - Elaine Parrovecchio** - No report. Arch mentioned that while volunteering at Klehm he met Maison Sinkiwic, a Klehm intern/employee and student at Freeport's Highland College in the Horticulture Program. Maison was interested in applying for CRG's scholarship award. Arch will forward his information to Elaine Parrovecchio.

**Civic Conservation - Diane Donze** - reported that she is very frustrated. She has made many, many calls trying to contact Habitat for Humanity and has had no response. Susan Schumacher said that there are many homes close to completion, but they will not have any homes 4 ready before December. They have not finished the houses – they are out of money.

**Programs - Arch Smith reported** that the Program Committee is having a “changing of the guard”. They will step aside but are still willing to help the new committee members. The Fall Frolic was the most recent program. It was suggested that we could have each of the four clubs take a turn planning the Fall Frolic gathering of clubs like in the past or just have the Program Committee do it. We could do a rotation with the clubs. CRG is welcome to have events at the barn almost any time it's available – or each club in charge could host it anywhere they choose. The clubs can plan the event, and the Program Committee can advise and support the club in charge. Arch reported that CRG will have a Christmas gathering “Spirits and Sparkle” at the Landscape Connection on Wednesday, December 11, from 5:30P.M. – 8:00P.M. Arch will check again with Michelle regarding serving alcohol at the event. Members can each bring a guest. CRG will also have a donation of winter wear (hats, gloves, scarfs, etc.) at the event, and the new Program Committee will decide which organization will benefit.

Susan Schumacher volunteered to take care of recycling. At the Fall Frolic at the barn, items were sorted for recycling after the event by the Plantaholics committee. Michele will also have her Christmas Walk set up. Each of the four clubs will donate a \$50 item for the raffle, and Michelle mentioned that she could donate some items too. Arch reported that he has another garden lined up for the CRG members and guests “Summer Stroll”.

**Publicity - Susan Schumacher** - wanted to commend Arch for his handling of publicity for the Garden Walk: the signs (designed by Lori Walsh), radio interview, newspaper article, distributing the Garden Walk cards to local nurseries, etc. Susan said that Arch is the “King of Publicity”.

**Garden Walk - Arch Smith** reported that we did have a little trouble with people taking our signs down at some of the homes on the Garden Walk. It was suggested that the homeowners should talk to their neighbors to let them know what is going to happen on the day of the Garden Walk. Arch reported that he has five gardens for the 2025 Garden Walk, with a possible sixth. They are spread out across the city.

**Horticulture - Pat Bellezza** - No report.

**Hospitality - Bev Larson** - No report. Arch said that Bev Larson is doing a good job.

**Newsletter - Karla Hardman** reported that she did have some trouble with the last newsletter due to the volume of pictures submitted. She apologized for not including some club pictures. She needs all information for the newsletter by Friday, and pictures should be emailed to her.

**Parliamentarian - Sarah Britton** said all is good.

**Sunshine - Cindy Rittenhouse** - No report. Arch reported that Cindy Rittenhouse sent a get well card to Ann Somers for her surgery, a thank you to Donna and Jim Bielfuss for hosting the Fall Frolic, and a thank you to Emily Flanary and Aaron Johnson for helping with the Fall Frolic. Please call or text Cindy (815) 977-2090 if any cards should be sent to a member.

**Ways & Means - Lynne Franzene** - No report. Lynne did say that down the road we will have to think about doing something to raise money for the scholarships and replenish the treasury. But, Lynne said that it will not be a plant sale.

**Website – Kathy Batzkall** - reported that we will have a new person taking over the website. Andrew Quintanilla, a Plantaholics member, will take over the website.



# OCTOBER 7, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## Committee Reports - continued

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - Mauria reported that the hosts of the Fall Frolic have not charged us for the past two years and suggested that we make them honorary members for a year. We would just add their email addresses to the CRG email list so they would receive the newsletters and CRG information.

**Lori Walsh** noted that there are some inconsistencies between the groups regarding the cutoff date for collecting club dues for the current year. A discussion was held, and it was suggested that we wait until our treasurer is in attendance to discuss the matter further and then set a cutoff date for collecting dues for the current year. We will table the matter till next month.

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 4, 2024, at Mary's Market at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Duncan, Secretary

## October Extra Information:

Might you be suffering with some of your garden weeding this Fall. Here's a recommended tool that some members have found to be helpful during some difficult times. **WARNING DO NOT USE IF DRY WEATHER OR WINDY WEATHER.**

Red Dragon  
**100,000 BTU Vapor Torch Kit for Homeowners**

Blain # 389526 | Mfr # VT2-23C

★★★★★ 4 Reviews



Want to have some beautiful and different flowers without spending so much money on Annuals? Perennials are a wonderful addition to your gardens.

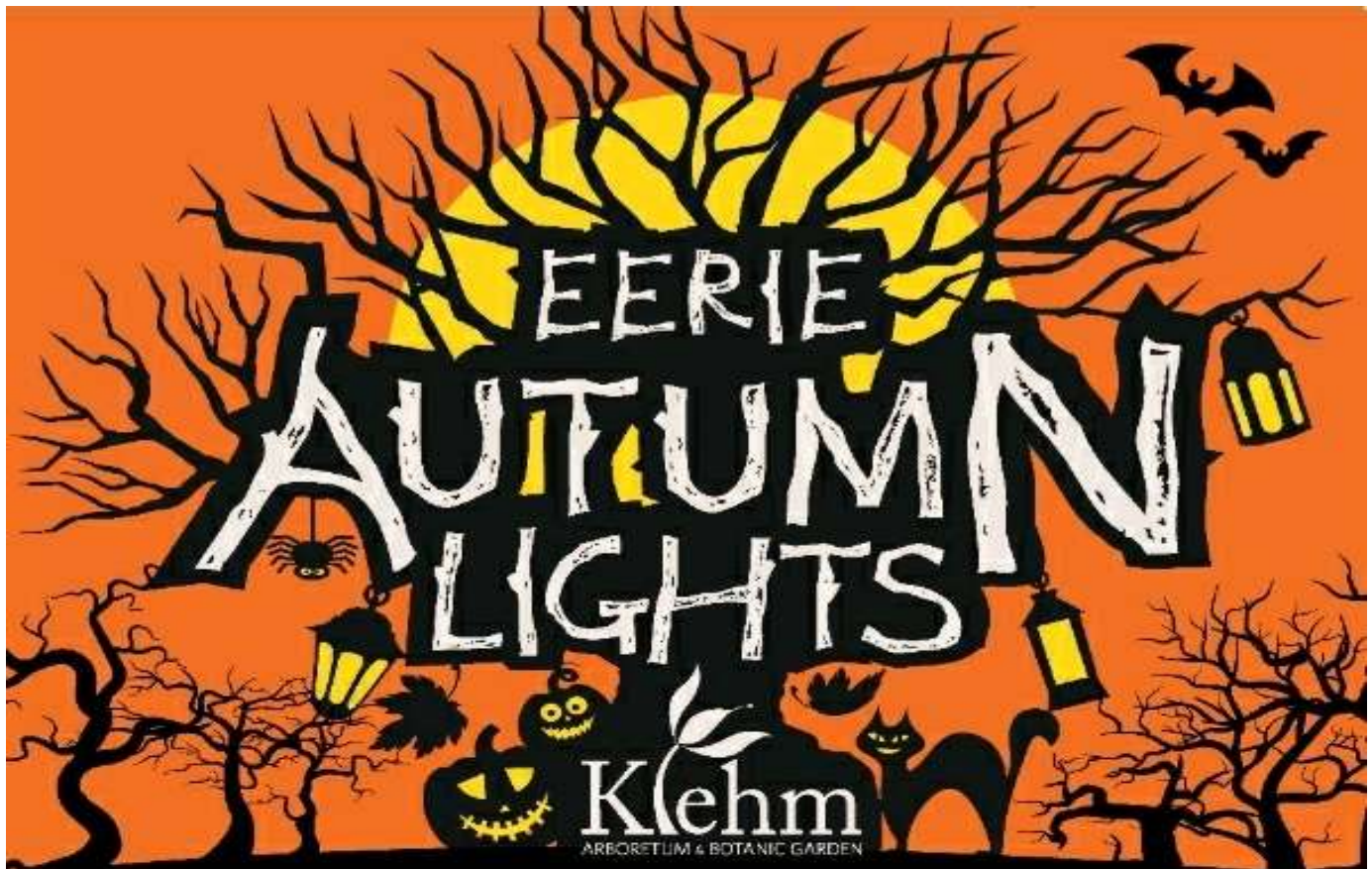


**National Geographic** · [Join](#)

Thisal Kavindu Yakandawala · Oct 4



Plant these self-seeders once and enjoy them year after year: Calendula, Borage, Poppies, Nigella, Larkspur, Cosmos, Forget-me-nots, Alyssum, Cleome, Four o'clocks, Love-lies-bleeding, Foxglove, Verbena, Sunflowers, Coreopsis, Snapdragons, Cornflowers, Sweet Peas. Perfect for a low-maintenance, blooming garden! 🌸 🌻 ❤️ 🧰



# AN ENCHANTINGLY IMMERSIVE HALLOWEEN EXPERIENCE!

Explore Klehm as never before on this half-mile journey through spookily lit landscapes and not-so-scary, family-friendly displays and activities!

See Rockford's  
**BIGGEST  
Pumpkin!**

Get lost in the massive  
Children's **Spooky  
Straw Bale Maze!**

Shop our **Ghostly Market** and  
enjoy themed food and drink  
offered by The Vintage Goose!

View **Haunted Balloon  
Creations** crafted by Ms. Twisty  
Pants on Wednesdays!

## OCTOBER 3-31, 2024

Wednesdays thru Sundays

**NOTE: Open every day Oct. 27-31!**  
Event begins at 5PM

Presenting  
Sponsor:



Additional  
Support From:



John & Anita  
Richards  
Brubaker  
Charitable Trust

Media Sponsors:



## TICKETS

**Adults: \$12 / Youth (12 and under): \$6**

Tickets are time-entry and can only be  
purchased online. No gate sales.

Buy tickets here:



Look for tie-in  
educational programs  
on Wednesdays  
at 5PM!

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden | 2715 S. Main St., Rockford, IL, 61102 | 815.965.8146 | www.klehm.org

# **Spirits and Sparkle**

**CRG**

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Wed Dec 11th  
530pm to 8pm**

**members and guests**

**bring dish to share**

**raffles \* activities**

**DONATIONS OF  
hats, gloves, socks, etc.**

**RSVP TO CINDY**

**815-977-2090**

**Hosted at**

**The Landscape Connection  
4472 S Mulford Rd RKFD, IL**

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE GARDEN

## Winter Calendar of Events

**The Landscape Connection**

**4472 S. Mulford Rd**

**815-633-5100**

All workshops require pre-registration and pre-payment.

We do not issue refunds if you do not attend a class and will always have a kit available for you to pick up

### Christmas Open House

**Fri-Sat-Sun Nov. 22-23-24th**

**Kick off the season with us!**

Workshops, Greens, Décor, Trees, and everything to deck the halls this holiday

Don't miss our great sales, steals & deals plus Food, prizes, fun and workshops.

**PLUS:** The Fresh Christmas Market with all your outdoor greens and decorating blings will be open!

### **NEW** - Amaryllis Pot \$50.00

**Blooming for the holidays-2 classes**

**Sat-Nov. 2nd or Sat-Nov. 9th 10-11 am**

Plant a totally fabulous amaryllis bulb with paper whites in a 12" slate grey or black garden bowl. We will then be mossing it up, making a willow cloche to go over the top and

### **Workshops: Fresh Floral Thanksgiving Centerpiece \$60.00**

**Tue-Nov. 26th 9-10:30 am**

Bragging Rights Available for Thanksgiving!

Come and make your Thanksgiving centerpiece, then you can say "I made that"

We will be using sunflowers, roses, mums and fillers with absolutely FAB greens all arranged artfully by you in a 12" round copper tin.

### **Workshop: Classic Porch Pot \$65.00**

Make your own porch pot in a paper mache pot so you can take it home and drop it into your existing pots.

We supply everything you need, and you get to pick out your ribbon for a custom bow.

|               | 9 am | 11 am | 1 pm |
|---------------|------|-------|------|
| Sat-Nov. 23rd | X    | X     |      |
| Sun-Nov. 24th |      |       | X    |
| Fri-Nov. 29th | X    | X     |      |
| Sat-Nov. 30th | X    |       |      |
| Sun-Dec. 1st  |      | X     |      |
| Wed-Dec. 4th  |      | X     |      |
| Sat-Dec. 7th  | X    |       |      |
| Sun-Dec. 8th  |      | X     |      |

### **Workshop: Waterfall Style Porch Pot \$70.00**

**Only 2 classes to choose from**

**Sun-Nov. 24th 10:00 am or Sat-Nov. 30th 11:00 am**

This outdoor pot will be glorious using dogwood, southern magnolia, seeded eucalyptus, white pine, cedar and boxwood. The greens will cascade out of a paper mache pot like a waterfall with a heavy center of a colored dogwood or birch.

### **Workshop-Winter Grapevine Wreath \$55.00**

**Sat-Nov. 23rd 1:00 pm**

Make a gorgeous 18" winter wreath. You will use assorted fresh greens and embellishments that will be wired and glued onto a grapevine wreath. Hand pick your ribbon for your bow. We will be using glue guns and you will need to pull wire tightly around a frame. Bring your own garden gloves

### 10th Annual Christmas Walk of Light

**Admission: FREE**

**Nov. 22nd- Dec. 28th**

**Mon-Thur. 8am-6pm**

**Fri-Sat 8am-8pm**

Park in the main lot and use the entrance to the glass greenhouse.

**PLUS**

### **Christmas Walk of Lights \*Family Nights\***

**Grab your family and come on down for these FREE events**

**5:00-7:00 pm**

**Sat. Dec. 7th AND Sat. Dec. 14th**

Visit with Santa, have a cookie and a hot cocoa.

Stop by the fire and make a memory.

**Special guests each night**

### **NEW** - Winter Bowl w/ Light Ring \$55.00

**Sat-Nov 30th 1:00 pm**

Create a light ring for your 14" metallic colored tin bowl, then after you will fill it with fresh greens, shatterproof bulbs, a custom bow and a fun winter animal. Can be used inside or outside (Please note the lifespan of this craft will last a lot longer outside. Inside you will have to refresh the water.)

### **NEW** - Winter Tin w/ Painted Birch Discs \$45.00

**Tues-Dec 3rd or Fri. Dec 6th 10:00 am**

Modpodge 2 birch discs with a pretty Christmas picture and then fill your 9" winter tin (embossed with fun winter trees) with fresh greens, pinecones, and colored birch twigs.

### **Little Me & Santa \$8.00 kids - Adults FREE**

**Sat-Dec 14th 9:00 am-11:00 am**

**\$8.00 admission per child-Adults FREE**

Kids: Take a photo with Santa and drop of your Christmas list letter in our North Pole Express mail box. Travel to all of Santa's shops and make fun crafts, a personalized ornaments, and decorate your very own Christmas cookie to take home.

**Sign Ups are required for an assigned start time.**

Parents must accompany children.

Age appropriate for 3-10

### **NEW** - Porch Gnomes w/Fresh Greens \$65.00

**Only 2 classes to choose from**

**Fri-Nov. 29th or Sun-Dec. 1st 1:00 pm**

Make a 3-4' tall porch gnome with a tomato cage and fresh Douglas fir. Decorate him up with a nose, beard, hat, & gloves.

Make sure to come up with a name.

Only 2 classes available. Class size 10

**Are you looking for a place to have a private party workshop for your staff, family or friends?**

**Connect with us and celebrate the season with a craft!**

**Minimum of 10 people per class. Limited spots available.**

**Call and ask for Michelle to find out how we can create a class for you. 815-633-5100**

# 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.*

### **Eerie Autumn Lights**

October 3rd – October 31st (Select Dates)

Eerie Autumn Lights is a new family-friendly October evening event that transforms Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden into an enchantingly immersive Halloween experience!

Available Now // Timed Entry // Online Only!

\$12 Adults / \$6 Children (Under 12)

### **Incredible Bats & Other Spooky Animals**

Included with Eerie Autumn Lights tickets for 5PM

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024

Incredible Bats will hold a program on their awesome bat education organization and will bring a variety of other spooky animals as well!

## **NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY**

1354 N. 2nd Street, Rockford, IL

<https://nicholasconservatory.com/>

### **Outdoor Garden Tour**

October 24 - 10:30am - 12:00pm

### **Noche de las Calaveras**

Nov 1, 2024 - 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Adults Only Celebration of Dia de los Muertos!

Music, cash bar, food vendors.

Catrina and Catrin attire and face painting are encouraged!

Ages 21+

Non-Members: \$10 (pre-registered before October 31)

Members: \$8 (pre-registered before October 31)

### **Nicholas at Night: Dia de los Muertos**

Nov 2, 2024 - 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Experience this amazing holiday through music, dancing, art, activities, and more!

Pre-registration required encouraged!

(Limited capacity!)

Non-Members: \$10 adults, \$7 children (ages 3-17)

NCG Members: \$7 adults, \$5 children (ages 3-17)

## **SEVERSON DELLS NATURE CENTER**

8786 Montague Road, Rockford IL

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

### **Full Moon Hike**

10/17/2024 6:00pm - 7:30 pm

You won't want to miss this rare opportunity to wander our woods after dark and engage your nocturnal senses on this hike led by Severson Dells Nature Center staff. Along the way we'll learn about- and hopefully encounter- nocturnal wildlife, constellations, and the full moon!

\$3.00 - Member

\$5.00 - General Admission

## **ANDERSON JAPANESE GARDENS**

318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford

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

### **Friendly Halloween Event**

#### **w/Hoo Haven & Dolphin Swim**

October 26 - 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Activities Include:

Trick or treating throughout the Gardens

Halloween craft stations

Spooky Graveyard- perfect for photos

Hoo Haven Learning Centers located throughout the Garden

## **WILD ONES**

<http://wildonesrrvc.org/>

**Monthly Zoom meetings, replayed on YouTube:**

<http://wildonesrrvc.org/Monthly Meetings.html>

Please check the Wild Ones website for October events.