

Florets
Twin City Garden Club
January 2023



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting: 1 pm Tuesday January 17 2022

Classroom Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect, Champaign

Program: Rena's Honey Bee Haven

Presenter: Rena Wilson Jones

Rena Wilson Jones of Rena's Honey Bee Haven will help us discover the world of bees with her amazing video presentation of the inner workings of the hive itself. Her mesmerizing program will educate and amaze. Rena has been a local bee keeper for many years. Plus, as Cheryl noted, she will have available honey and bee related products for purchase.

Refreshment break

Hostesses: Donna Wagner and Tori Corkery

Floral arrangement by: Donna Wagner

Penny Pines Jar will be present

Membership: Membership dues are payable starting this month

Business Meeting

Agenda

Call to Order

President's Opening Remarks

Recording Secretary Minutes/Approval

Treasurer's Report

Corresponding Secretary Report

Standing Committee Reports

Membership	Facebook	Sunshine
Program	Website	Philanthropy
Yearbook	Social	

Unfinished Business

New Business: Nominating Committee Appointments

Adjourn

FLORAL DESIGN

Class: "Water, Water Everywhere"

A 9-inch Line-Mass Underwater design; fresh and/or dried plant material. Design must be mainly underwater. Staged at eye level (for example, mantel height) approximately 55" from the floor; display table covered in black. Tori notes that while the design is mainly underwater part of the material could rise above that level, but the total design cannot exceed 9 inches in any direction, and also to keep the design simple. An underlay can be used.

IN THE HOME GARDEN

“Look around, Leaves are brown, There's a patch of snow on the ground” (Paul Simon song)

Whether it is brown or white outside, there is a longing for green life with colorful flowers. Based on a long tradition (late 19th century) there has always been a yearning for live, growing plants in the confines of our domiciles and wholesale growers and retailers fulfill our demand. Only the first few weeks of January and we have a variety of spring primulas and African violets plus numerous bromeliads, orchids and lush leafy greens in the floral departments of our local grocery stores and garden stores. What do we choose and how do we care for the plant?

Check the plant tag: The sometimes not so obvious factor when eyeing that bromeliad or goldfish plant are the light, temperature and moisture recommendations. Consider the home environment with its limitations. Too little light and the plant won't thrive, too much can actually be harmful as well.

Pick up the plant: do a good visual check for possible insects such as whiteflies, fungus gnats, even checking leaf undersides and the soil itself. Mealybugs are easy to spot due to their white color and cotton-like appearance. Unfortunately, even the cleanest grower has pest problems which travel easily to seller to user. A small infestation may be overcome by isolation and sticky traps. Mealybug infestations are more cumbersome to deal with and probably should be left to the vendor.

Check the type of soil material: a common filler recently is peat moss, which is okay for the nursery producer and for a short-lived trip to the seller and buyer, but not for the longer life of the plant. Peat moss is okay when used in a mixed potting medium, but not as the sole component – it does not support long-term growth and thus the repotting in a suitable mixed medium is necessary.

Note the container: does it have drainage holes? For repotting, one suggestion is to use a light, plastic container with lots of drainage holes which can then be placed in a decorative container for display.

Having mentioned bromeliads several times reveals my total fascination with its striking flower; but then the flower would fade and die and slowly the leaves as well leaving me with another plant failure.

Certainly helps to dig deeper into the growth habits of this and many other indoor plants which is now much more accessible through the internet. With that intent did locate some useful advice: 1) the plant will only bloom once – it will be a long-lived bloom, perhaps 3 – 6 months, but then the dry stalk needs to be removed; 2) side shoots, called “pups” will develop, each of which can be removed and potted, from which a new plant will grow and produce its own flower. Special care is that the plant needs bright, but not direct light and optimal drainage allowing for no drying out or soggy soil. Fortified with a better understanding of this plant's growth characteristics, I am trying again.



So short story, use the plant tag as an initial guide, but then do a more thorough background check including several sources of information. There seems to be some conflicting advice at times, especially regarding the variety of growing mediums that are available.

Of note to houseplant enthusiasts, there are two relatively new local stores in Champaign: Planted at 16 E. Washington (PlantedCU.com) and Plant Mode (plantmode.com) at 113 N. Walnut. Plus a reinvented Abbott's Florist now listed as Orchid & Vine (orchidandvine.com) at 1123 Windsor Rd. Each can be shopped in person or online from their websites.

Also, for Facebook users, check out: CU Plant People (a local group for sharing photos, advice and plants)