



Florets

Twin City Garden Club

September 2026

Announcements

Meeting: 1 pm Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect, Champaign

Program: Beauty of a pollinator garden

Presenter: Mike Skreiner

Pollinators and their associated plants are inextricably linked. Indeed, they coevolved for millions of years. To display their beauty, this program presents a gallery of pictures by a number of photographers. Examples of learning by observing nature are demonstrated. Mike Skreiner was an avid gardener in Australia, the East and West Coasts, and now in the Midwest.

Refreshment break Hostesses: Heather Munro and Jeff Matlack

Floral Arrangement: Susie Kautzer

Donate to Plant-a-Tree

Plant/Seed Exchange New member Chris Hays is joining Bonnie Specchio for the Plant and Seed Exchange this year. This is a good time to dig up starts of day lilies and iris and to collect seed heads of coneflowers, black-eyed susans, sunflowers and zinnias. Please consider bringing something to share.

Horticulture Tip of the month

Business meeting:

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	Sunshine

New Business: Proposed budget 2026-2027

Adjourn

Birthdays: Tori Corkery, 9/27

Membership: Welcome to Pat Adametz who joined with us this summer. Her contact details are in the latest edition of our 2026-2027 yearbook.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In progress now

Eastern Central Illinois Master Naturalists Native Tree, Shrub and Forb Outreach Sale

Use the link: go.illinois.edu/NativeSale

which will then open the registration page with a list of the available plants plus the fill in order form

Sale ends October 1st

Put these on your calendar:

Pumpkin sale: 10 am – 6 pm daily through the month of October

(but don't wait, come early for the best selection)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 2101 S. Prospect, east parking lot

Proceeds benefit youth programs

Fall bulb sale Saturday 3-6 pm on Oct 17th

Delight Flower Farm 1472 County Road East Champaign

Open to the public – there is a gate fee \$1/adult

Featuring specialty tulips, daffodils, ranunculus and seeds for the spring garden

Plus, local artisan vendors: Fithian Folk, Urbana Woodworks, Piper Pottery, Everyday Feast and Chrystal Hartman Art

September Humor from Mike Skreiner

Rule: Party Time: Our party time is an excellent opportunity to socialize together which is one of the two approaches to create a game plan to defeat father time as proposed in a National Geographic Magazine. The other approach is to exercise.



IN THE GARDEN -- garden sharing in the neighborhood

Whispers sometimes travel or just downright yelps may occur regarding plants that will unknowingly “jump” their boundaries. Neighbor A – raspberries -- thanking me, same neighbor: snake root, NO THANK YOU; Neighbor B: upset that a traveling Malvina hollyhock had invaded their space from mine. Me: thankful for the goldenrod and obedience plants, but perplexed by the presence of burdock in my garden. Our fenced yards may deter large interlopers (racoons and groundhogs), but these traveling plants seem to not know any boundaries in their way.

The arrival of the burdock is problematic, although it is a plant of unique interest. It seems to easily spread plus it can grow to a massive height. Not seen as beneficial in the home garden locations and has been considered as an invasive weed, though it is listed as a wildflower in Illinois by one source. There might have been hints or clues, but I missed them. *Arctium minus* is a biennial plant, growing from seed, emerging in a small cluster of three leaves. When overlooked, the leaves greatly enlarge, and unseen, sends down a large taproot. Second year growth sends up a tall (3-6 ft) thick stem with alternating side branches and prickly blooms. This is a non-native plant but has at least a 400-hundred history of being on this continent having been brought here by European colonists and adopted by native peoples all of whom benefitted from its unique qualities as both a source of food and medicine. Only non-edible part are the thistles which are pretty, but very thorn-like and extremely sticky. Anyone interested in modern day foraging can find a variety of websites; for example, Foragerchef.com/burdock-root/ or use the keywords: learn the herbs:burdock.



Malvina hollyhocks (*Malva sylvestris* ‘Zebrina’) are also biennial and much more lovely than the burdock and not dominating. (Neighbor B thought it was just not in their garden plan.) Being a biennial it does travel easily, unlike the related biennial genera of Ascea, the tall hollyhocks that seem to behave more as perennials.



Snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*) could be a nice addition to the fall garden with its dark- colored leaves and small white flowers. However contact with the leaves can cause skin irritation, but not as bad as poison ivy. It is not a biennial but travels a lot by sending out side roots that can slowly creep around. . Gloves help keep it managed, but an innocent receiver may have trouble.

The very welcome gifts across the fences are those that have been openly shared upon which we all agree: snowdrops, irises, cannas, day lilies, and summer blooming Amaryllis.

