

FLORETS
Twin City Garden Club
March 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting: 1 pm Tuesday Mar 17 2025 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect, Champaign

Program: How to Rebloom Your Orchid

Presenter: Don White

Don White, owner of Anything Orchids, is a member of the Batavia and the Illinois Orchid Societies. This talk will cover basic orchid growing, including watering, light requirements, pest removal, and repotting.

Refreshment break

Hostesses: Regina Lee

Floral Arrangement: Susie Kautzer

Horticulture Tip of the Month

Donate to Plant-a-Tree

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

Adjourn

Birthdays: Martha Tinsley, 3/26

Welcome our newest member: Chris Hayes

122 E. Allen St Farmer City IL 61842-1875

217-848-1875 chays@greenview.com

Reminder: if not yet paid, please pay dues by April 1st

Get ready for Twin City Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 2nd from 8:00 to noon at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

From Nicole Miller and Martha Tinsley:

This is our major fundraiser of the year, and we usually donate the proceeds to worthy projects such as school or community gardens.

What: We need to think about what plants we can lift from our gardens for the plant sale. Please try to use containers that are a half gallon size or larger. If necessary, you can place more than one small start in that container. We have found that a larger container sells better than tiny ones, and that makes it easier for us to do our pricing system of most pots for the set price of \$5.00. We have also found that plants lifted a couple weeks in advance get a chance to recover and look better than plants lifted at the last minute. The following plants sell very well: anything edible, such as herbs, fruit bushes and rhubarb; hostas; houseplants; and perennial flowers. We usually have an overabundance of lambs ears.

We will also take any type of ornamental pots, garden tools and equipment, etc. for the garage sale part of the plant sale.

How: If you need help digging plants please reach out to Nicole Miller. Her contact info is reservationfor5@gmail.com. We will be unable to dig plants for the sale later than April 19th, so please think about this in advance.

More details will be forthcoming on our promotion efforts and plant drop-offs next month. Thanks in advance for your help with this!

March humor from Mike Skreiner:

Moving, Rule: When you move, take your street post office mail box with you. That way, your mail carrier will know where to find you and continue the efficient delivery of your mail. Then you will continue to receive your important mail in a timely manner, such as your social security check, your bank statements, your credit card and tax bills, and so forth. Also, you will not have to bother to notify all of your friends and other organizations that you moved. Just like your email address which doesn't need to be changed, your postal address also will move along with you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sola Gratia Farm St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 1821 E. Mumford Drive, Urbana
Veggie Growing Guides Workshop, April 4th 1-2:30 pm,
cost is \$5 and registration is required
visit solagratiacsa.com and follow the link at the end of the page, marked EVENTS

Central Illinois Orchid Society Show and Sale Hessel Park Church 700 W. Kirby, Champaign
April 11th 10am – 2 pm Free admission

“Highlights:

1. Displays of member grown blooming orchids.
2. Informational table on identifying and treating pests and diseases.
3. Workshops/Speakers:
 1. Choosing orchids for my growing conditions: 11:00 a.m.
 2. Please Don't "Just Add Ice"! Basic orchid growing: 12:00 p.m.
 3. Repotting demo: 1:00 p.m.

If you want an orchid of your very own, a variety of beautiful orchids will also be for sale. (Cash, check, & venmo accepted). We will have orchid culture sheets available and experts will be on hand to answer all orchid questions!”

UIUC Horticulture Club Spring Plant Fair Stock Pavillion, 1402 W Pennsylvania Ave, Urbana
April 11th starts at 9 am
Large selection of herbs, fruits, vegetables, perennials, and flowers grown by club members.
Available info lists that various workshops will also be featured throughout the day.

Delight Flower Farm 1472 CR 500 E, Champaign
Spring Plant Sale April 18th 12-3 pm
Fresh flowers, plants, seed, drinks, pastries, local art and more!
\$1/person gate fee (kids 12 & under are free)

Both of the local nursery outlets Prairie Gardens and Country Arbors are hosting major promotions: Pansy Palooza at P. Gardens, the weekend of Mar 21-22 and Bloom Bash at Country Arbors on Sunday, April 26th atarting at 9 am, More details are available at their respective websites or on Facebook.

IN THE SPRING GARDEN

Give us a bright warm day in March and we are shedding our heavy coats. Buds on trees are enlarging after lurking tightly during the cold of winter, plus a sudden uprising. Perhaps there were hints yesterday or the day before, but it was cloudy and raining. Now with the days of warmth, the early crocus ~~are~~ were blooming, daffodils have fully extended plus the tulip foliage is evident.

A poet once declared that "April is the cruelest month" which does resonate with many home gardeners who struggle with the variable weather patterns of cold and warmth, but my first vote is for March. Others may opine for the hot months of summer or the cold months of winter. Realistically, there is always a struggle and always haunts of droughts, severe storms, heat waves or sudden freezes. Some years are tough and those are the lean years and at times blessings are poured which are the good years.

Perfection is desired, but reality chimes in. Yes, the crocus only has its time for a few days, or the daffodils go limp from a freeze --- their beauty is fleeting and only a few pollinators may get their sip. However, at least, the bulbs do not die. There is always "next year" and they do return, though it is good to check on those crocus corms. Some of the winter heaves can raise the corms up above the recommended depth of 3-4 inches, leaving them vulnerable to hungry squirrels.

Fortunate to still have these daffodils which were first planted back in 1999. Their closed heads were bowed a bit on this Saturday, do wonder what Monday or Tuesday may bring.



Too many tulips also have been lured up by the early warmth, but so far it is only the foliage which does seem to withstand any freezing damage: the stems and petals are the most vulnerable. And yes, the current forecast for the week of the 16th does include temps below freezing. Various methods of covering the plants are suggested: one, claiming snow as a good insulator. For the next few days of strong and cold, cold winds it will be a challenge. A strategy of using a mix of early, mid, and late season tulips may be one way of having some spots to help brighten up the winter drear, with the caveat that sunny days of 70's may cause wilting.

Woodland spring wildflowers are seemingly hardy despite the weather fluctuations. Not as susceptible to frost damage, though lack of adequate moisture may diminish their spread. The largest threat these wildflowers may face is loss of habitat. It is with the sincere work of professional preservationists and civilian volunteers that this area has an array of local park and prairie locations that have been set aside and maintained. Do take the opportunity to visit the Urbana Busey Woods and Meadowbrook, Champaign's Porter Park; and the county preserves: Homer Lake, Lake of the Woods, Middle Fork, Allerton, and Riverbend.