

*Florets*  
*Twin City Garden Club*  
*January 2026*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Meeting:** 1 pm Tuesday January 20 2026

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect, Champaign

**Program:** Red Oak Rain Garden

**Presenter:** Madelyn Craft

Nestled in the heart of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus, this vibrant garden is more than just a picturesque landscape—it's a living laboratory and community space. Designed to manage storm water sustainably, the garden features native plants that naturally filter rainwater, reducing runoff and promoting biodiversity, offering the perfect blend of education, relaxation, and inspiration.

### **Horticulture Tip of the Month**

**Plant-a-Tree** donations accepted

**Plant/Seed Exchange**

### **Refreshment break**

**Hostesses:** Patti Lipton and Regina Lee

**Floral arrangement by:** Susie Kautzer

**Membership:** Membership dues (\$30) 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

## IN THE GARDEN: with winter birds

Unseasonable warmth, followed by bitter cold and heavy snow, then repeat with several variations. My grandmother would just get up and leave for the whole winter to avoid this chaos. But most of us don't have that luxury and we stay, as well some of those with wings who could fly away.

Who stays? Cardinals and house sparrows never leave us, as well as blue jays, some lurking crows and woodpeckers. There have been reported sightings of goldfinches and black-capped chickadees throughout the winter season, though these seemed to be rare appearances. More surprisingly, there are those who even come here just for the winter: American trees sparrows, dark-eyed juncos, purple finches, red-breasted nuthatches – and even snow geese (though these don't gather in our gardens unless a large pond is present).

What are the chances for survival?

For nutrition, many of us have good bird feeders that are well-stocked and/or there are the free-for-all, wild, messy gardens that hold opportunities for scavenging. Water is also essential. More human intervention may be needed during this time. Advice from various sources: Snow is too cold. Water that is neither too hot or too cold can be provided in a shallow dish with perhaps a tennis ball that can roll around to delay freezing. An alternative may be a heated bird bath.

The birds themselves do plan ahead: in mid-August cold-weather species molt, losing old, ragged feathers making way for a fresh and heavier layering. On the colder days of winter they will puff out their feathers which creates an insulating barrier. During the most bitter days they will just hunker down together and snuggle finding shelter in dense evergreen shrubs.

**On the brighter side:** each day now daylight time is increasing. Yes, it is slow, but minute by minute it adds up: by the end of January will have gained 49 minutes, more encouraging the time of sunset is extending from 4:30 up to 5 p.

**On the lighter side:** "Gardening Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull it out. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant!" (from Mike Skreiner)

**Plus, looking forward:** the Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. statewide flower show guided by the chair, Tori Corkery with Cheryl Weber and Regina Lee will be here in Urbana at Lincoln Square Mall, July 23-25 2026. More details to follow in the February Florets.

