

Florets
Twin City Garden Club
October 2026



1 pm Tuesday Oct 20 2026

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect,
Champaign

Program: All About Apples

Presenter: Heather Miller, Master Gardener and Horticultural Professional

Discover the history of apples, how to pick the perfect apple for baking, snacking and more!
After the talk, enjoy sampling apple varieties and take home a handy worksheet to guide your
future apple picks.

Refreshment break

Hostesses: Cheryl Weber and Regina Lee

Floral arrangement by: Cheryl Weber

Donate to Plant-a- Tree

Plant/Seed Exchange

Horticulture Tip of the 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

Adjourn

But don't leave yet: stay for a quick garden raffle – must be present to win a garden goody.

Orders for the National Garden Clubs' annual desk calendar for 2027 are being accepted by Tori Corkery. Spiral bound with plenty of space for notes and beautifully illustrated with floral designs for each week of the year.

Price is \$15 and payable upon receipt. Purchase one for yourself and/or as a gift to family and friends.



Local event of interest

Red Oak Garden along Dorner Drive in Urbana

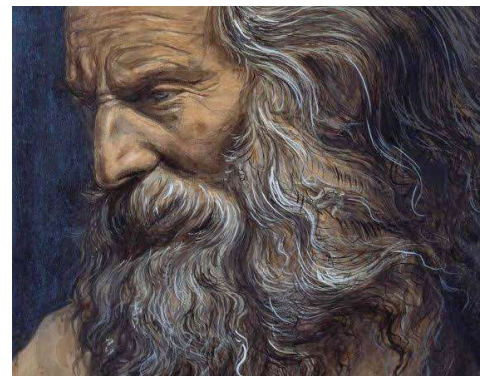
All events are free as well as the parking

This is an extensive immersion of art and nature – for all of the good details on this event,

please visit the redoakgarden.org website

October Humor from Mike Skreiner

“Rule: Longevity #1: I have become quite interested in longevity. As a model, I came upon Methuselah a Biblical Patriarch who lived for 969 years. Methuselah is mentioned in three specific books across the Old and New Testaments of the Bible: Genesis 5:21–27 his primary appearance; also 1 Chronicles 1:3; and Luke 3:37. His family was son of Enoch, father of Lamech, and grandfather of Noah who built the arch. He is also recognized by Islam. I often wondered how he did that feat? So I sent him an email addressed to: methuselah@god.heaven to ask him. He sent me his photo, see below, and also said, well it was actually quite simple: at every year on his birthday, he would add one to his life expectancy wish until he met his goal of 969. I told my friends that I will live at least till I’m 120. So, given Methuselah’s advice, next year I will add one and so my new life expectancy will be 121. Why don’t you try it and let me how it worked for you?”



IN THE GARDEN WITH TREE CITYS

Thank to our forebears for their foresight. Both Urbana and Champaign have been designated as a Tree City USA respectively for 51 and 40 years.

Certainly, this started long before the 1970-80's considering the age and height of the trees in many neighborhoods. Some of the lore as recorded by the Champaign County Historical Museum dates urban tree planting back to the initial development of this area.



Illinois is considered to be a prairie state, but truly it was a mixture of prairie, marshes and woodlands. The eastern mid-central region typified this terrain, which included a massive grove of trees, now known as Big Grove. As settlers moved westward in the 1820's the trees were felled to clear the land for growing agricultural crops. By the 1830's, tracts of land were claimed on the edge of Big Grove which led to the development of an organized settlement, initially named as Big Grove, but then renamed as Urbana.

With the advent of Illinois Industrial University (now UIUC) attention was drawn to the massive loss of trees, both for their utilitarian use and the empty desolation of the campus area. Massive planting of trees ensued including the formation of Illini Grove and experimental orchard plots.

Attention was also focused on the lack of green space in the city of Urbana itself. First by the creation of a 39-acre park (Crystal Lake Park) which attracted many pleasurable activities, including Chatauqua's and second, inspiring residents to include trees in their landscaping. As the community of West Urbana (now Champaign) developed, parks and shady lined streets grew as well.

In modern times, those shady lined streets were developed into what has become "parkways", with trees near the street intermingled with grassy areas and paved sidewalks along side.

Initially the parkway areas were under total control of the homeowner. However, a more formal arrangement is now in place regarding any trees in the parkway. Both Champaign and Urbana, plus Savoy and Mahomet have Forestry Divisions that manage the parkways for tree maintenance and also the selection and planting of trees. Each municipality maintains a list of suitable native trees. Empty space in your parkway and interested in a tree? Participate in a cost-sharing program with your local Forestry Division who can guide decisions and install the selected tree.

We may not always know the benefits of trees in our parkways or the gardens, but they are true live breathing organisms which also provide habitat for creatures we value.