

Florets
Twin City Garden Club
October 2023



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting: 1 pm Tuesday Oct 17 2023

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect, Champaign

Program: Beneficial insects: unseen, under-appreciated, and under threat—what can you do to save biodiversity?

Presenter: Dr. Tommy McElrath

Let's talk about the bugs you might not see every day, but that really run the world. From pollinators to decomposers, to predators and parasites, presenter Tommy McElrath will show preserved specimens from the INHS Insect Collection along with a presentation on the under-appreciated arthropods in your backyards, Illinois, and around the world. Dr. McElrath is the Insect Collections Manager, Illinois Natural History Survey/Prairie Research Institute/University of Illinois.

Flower Show 101 Horticulture Section – What is growing in your garden?

Refreshment break

Hostesses: Karen Marley and Vida Mazzocco

Floral arrangement by: Kathy Marren

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

Penny Pines Jar will be present

Plant/Seed Exchange

Birthdays: Lynda Brunton, 10/8; Patricia Lipton, 10/9; Jim Hayes, 10/31

Membership: Welcome our newest member and add her contact info to your yearbook

Donna Tellez dstellez@sbcglobal.net
2106 Ivy Court Champaign IL 61821-6379
815-922-4782

FLOWER SHOW 101

It was proposed by the Executive Board that our club proceed with a **Flower Show**. A motion was made, seconded and passed by all those present, with a tentative date set for June 2024. As noted in our yearbook, each month Tori Corkery will give a short presentation on the various aspects of producing a flower show. That discussion will be summarized here in our newsletter and may include links to additional, helpful information in our preparations.

Main points from our September Flower 101.

Purposes of a flower show are:

- To educate the club members and viewing public
- To stimulate interest in horticulture and floral design
- To provide an outlet for creative expression

The main sections in a flower show are:

- Horticulture
- Design
- Education
- Botanical Arts

The schedule is the law of the show and contains all the information necessary for the show as a whole and for the exhibitors.

At our October Flower Show 101 we will begin looking at the individual roles that make up the flower show committee that will ensure a successful show. The following link leads to the National Garden Clubs website on Flower Shows which gives a good general overview and can be explored as desired: <https://gardenclub.org/ngc-flower-shows>

TCGC Facebook Info (from Lisa Sur)

1. If you are on Facebook but don't belong to the TCGC Facebook page, please let me know so you can be added.
2. Questions? Send email (sur.lisa@yahoo.com) or text 217-649-0154. This allows time for those questions to be addressed at the next meeting, on Facebook and in the Florets in a concise manner. I am new at this also, we will be learning together!
3. Will do 2 posts each month, about 2 weeks apart. One post on the upcoming meeting and one on basic flower show info. There are Facebook members who are not club members. This will help create membership interest.
4. Yes, it is ok to be a Facebook member, but not a club member. We want to get a following and create interest to encourage interest in joining in our club.
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6. The more members we have, the more opportunity for dialogue on Facebook. It's fun to chat on Facebook! It's an opportunity to learn from each other. We can talk about our meetings, field questions about our club, flower shows, plants, gardening, insects, birds..

Event of Interest

Annual Pumpkin Sale: the east parking lot of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 10 a – 6 p daily on sale now through October 31st

IN THE GARDEN WITH TIPS FOR TULIPS

The charm of tulips has never failed to entice us, their bright colors awaken us from the cold days of winter. Here are some hints for better tulips in our home gardens.

When to plant: NOW, before any hard freeze happens. Don't wait: the bulbs need a few weeks to develop rootlets to absorb moisture and nutrients from the soil, before their long chill of 12-16 weeks.



Location: In the spring, tulips do need a sunny spot, but perhaps not a space that receives abundant sun during the summer months. Easy choices that combine these features are the understory of deciduous trees and shrubs. The key point is soil temperature. Without protection of some relief of the hot temperatures of summer the bulbs can become overheated.

Site prep: Consider the size of the planting hole, depth and width. The main factor is to plant below the frost line to protect the bulbs from becoming frozen. For east central Illinois the average frost line is six inches, though it does vary with the severity of the winter, so that even an eight-inch depth is recommended. The hole does need to be wide enough to hold the number of bulbs being planted plus the spacing: each bulb needs at least 1 or even 2 inches of space – do not overcrowd. Work the soil well and add amendments if needed such as some well-aged compost. There are some who suggest the addition of bone meal, HOWEVER if your area has a population of any hungry rodent diggers don't do this as it only serves as an attractant for them.

Pest deterrents: For those with pesky diggers such as squirrels, the eight-inch level may be helpful. One suggestion would be to use chicken wire to cover the area plus a good layer of soil over that. Did intend to try that one year, but that material is difficult to flatten out since it is usually sold only in rolls. A better plan would be to mix the tulips with daffodils and/or hyacinths.

Watering: do water after initial planting which is usually enough until spring (unless it is a particularly dry and not so cold winter). Do water as needed during the blooming period and afterwards, not allowing the soil to dry out.

Fertilize: a "balanced" mixture, slow-release type.* When the directions on the product bag state "plant directly from the bag to the soil around the bulbs" don't place in the hole with the bulbs as I once did. This didn't hurt the bulbs, it actually promoted growth, but only by producing side shoots which did look pretty, but lessened the mother bulb. In fact, the bulbs don't need fertilizer when planted, all of the energy to bloom is in the bulb. The time for fertilizing is in the spring, during bloom time and after the blooms have faded. Can sprinkle the granules into the top soil layer and gently mix in and water.

Post-bloom: The faded bloom can be removed, but do not cut back the foliage until it fades to brown. The green leaves are still functional, able to photosynthesize and produce carbohydrates which are transported back to the base bulb. Continue to fertilize (monthly) and water during this period as well. After the leaves are removed, several options are possible: 1) use a place-marker so it is not forgotten; 2) plant a small flowering annual over that location; or 3) dig up the bulbs and store until the fall.

Why dig up? This is usually practiced in the southern U.S. due to the extreme heat, but here in Illinois it has been suggested as a good way to rejuvenate the bulbs and divide them as needed (and perhaps rearrange their location). Store dry, clean bulbs in a netting bag in a dark, cool space ready for the fall.

* So many suggestions as to the NPK ratio. Find bulb food at a good garden store and use that; for example, Prairie Gardens recommended Scotts bulb food which is 10-12-10 in granular form

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