FLORETS
Twin City Garden Club
March 2025

ANNOUCEMENTS

Meeting: 1 pm Tuesday Mar 18 2025 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect, Champaign

Program: Big Grove Apiaries
Presenter: Bryan W. Miller
In this program we will learn about Big Grove Apiaries, a local beekeeping operation. We'll learn about local floral sources and climate effects on bloom dates. Brian is the co-owner of Big Grove Apiaries.

Horticulture Tip of the Month

Penny Pines jar will be present

Refreshment break

Hostesses: Nicole Miller and Susie Kautzer
Floral Arrangement: Susie Kautzer


The now blooming paper whites from Feb's hort tip

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: Meridee Dornhoff, 3/11 and Martha Tinsley, 3/26

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

Floral Design Workshop: Petite Designs April 5th, 10a-12n at Tori Corkery's home

See February Florets for details, still time to register, by Friday, March 28th

Upcoming Plant Sale May 3rd 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.

If you need pots, please contact Tori Corkery, who has a hoard in her barn: corkery@illinois.edu

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

Upcoming programs for 2025-26

Martha Tinsley invites suggestions for the 2025-2026 program year. For example, a topic that would be of interest and/or if you have the contact info for a particular person or group that might possibly be available.

One topic that will be included in this year's schedule is a Q & A session, during which a short gardening question could be asked and those present can offer their advice. Anytime a question may occur to you, it may be submitted to Martha who will compile them.
martha.tinsley5@gmail.com

IN THE SPRING GARDEN

We can feel it, as do the birds, insects, and small mammals. As the spring air warms and envelopes our senses, primarily with the visual delights of emerging leaves and blossoms there are also subtle fragrances. Just as each plant has its own distinctive appearance, it also has its own biochemistry that produces a scent: one or more molecules that comprise a signature odor – come get me (for the pollinators) or stay away (to the predatory pests). As humans we are the fortunate beneficiaries of the pleasing concoctions -- unless we encounter skunk cabbages or arum lilies that are just downright stinky.

Has now been well established by plant scientists that flowers produce what are known as essential oils. Often, we are bombarded by advertisements even for purchasing such concoctions, as extraction processes have been developed that can collect such oils from the chosen plant, whether lavender or roses or even snow drops. Plus, purveyors of perfumes and even home fragrance products have concocted products based on the chemical profile of these oils so that our homes or our bodies may also be fragrant.

As the spring-early flowers of snow drops and crocus emerge, the fascination of seeing them can be enough, though as we stand high above them it may not be obvious that these very small flowers do have a fragrance. Most usually planted in small groups, that do increase in size as years roll by, the subtle scent released through the pores of the petals is magnified not so much for us, but for the early pollinators (bees) that can locate them. Though it can be tough for the snow drops, sometimes erupting through snow or warm days followed by freezing temps.

As the soil in our gardens warms, it too, provides a freshness, often described just as “earthy” since it certainly is not a floral scent and does seem to arise from “the earth”. Microbiologists working with soil bacteria have identified this scent factor as geosmin which is produced by Streptomyces bacteria. If this name sounds familiar it is more well known for another biochemical product, streptomycin, an antibiotic used to treat diseases caused by toxic gram-negative bacteria, such as streptococcus. Once again, humans are beneficiaries not only aesthetically, but also medicinally.

Adding to the fragrance symphony, are the newly emerging tree buds and their soon to open blossoms. Especially enticing for us in C-U are the gardens of Japan House. As the spring equinox is now approaching so begins the Sakura watch – the opening of the cherry tree blossoms. This event can be followed on Facebook as posts are made by Japan House staff on a regular basis to note the progress of blooming. Any given year can be spectacular, though sometimes weather problems interfere. However, there are so many other trees and shrubs in the gardens, it is always a delightful visit.

A view from an overlook at the major pond at the Japan Garden on a beautiful day (April 16, 2022)

As requested, for those who enjoyed these refreshments from Jill Moore at February's meeting:

Buddig beef cheese spread

1 pkg. cream cheese, softened	
1/2 pkg. Buddig's beef chopped fine	Pulse in food processor
chopped onion or chives	Can make it into a cheese ball
Dill weed to taste	and roll in chopped pecans
Dry mustard to taste	Serve with crackers or pita crisps
Dash Worcestershire sauce	

Cranberry pecan cheese ball

8 oz. cream cheese, softened	
1 c shredded sharp cheddar cheese	Mix and shape base
2 T honey	Wrap in plastic wrap.
1 T garlic powder	Refrigerate 1 or 2 hours.
2 green onions finely chopped	
1/3 c dried cranberries, chopped	
salt and pepper to taste	
Coating:	Roll in coating.
1/2 c chopped pecans	
1/4 c dried cranberries, chopped	
1 T fresh parsley, finely chopped	