

Florets
Twin City Garden Club
April 2026



Announcements

Spring Luncheon Tuesday April 21st at **12 noon**
Manzella's Italian Patio, 115 South First, Champaign
Join us for food and friendship

April birthdays: Lisa Sur, 4/3; Cheryl Weber 4/8

Membership: Welcome our newest member: Lynne Rudasill
1005 Ross Drive Champaign IL 61821
217-649-4652 lmrudasill@gmail.com
Birthday: 4/19

TCGC annual plant sale Saturday May 2nd 8 a – 12 noon
East parking lot Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

From Nicole Miller and Martha Tinsley:

"Hello all. Now is a good time to lift plants for the plant sale. That way they will have time to recover and look perky for the sale. Please try to use half gallon containers or larger. If you have small plants, you can place more than one in a larger container. If you can label the container with the type of plant, that is very helpful. We will be selling most containers for \$5.00, unless it's something very large or quite small.

We have found in the past that the following plants sell well: hostas, most perennials, house plants, and edible plants such as rhubarb and herbs. If you need assistance digging plants, you can email Nicole Miller at reservationfor5@gmail.com. However, if you wait too long to ask, it may not be possible to have anyone help you. We will also accept garden equipment and accessories. Please drop off your plants during the afternoon of May 1st at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

We hope to see some of you on May 2nd at the sale from 8:00 am to noon. If you attend, please wear your garden club shirt"

TCGC event

Red Oak Rain Garden Tour May 6th starting at 10 am

Located on the University of Illinois campus between Allen Hall and McKinley Health Center

Rain date: May 7th parking details to follow

Local Events of Interest

Champaign Public Library 200 W. Green

Tuesdays at Ten series for Out in the Garden April 28th 10a – 11a

Topic: Homegrown National Park with speaker Morgan Duersen-Balk, an environmental public program specialist for the Champaign County Forest Preserve.

Parkland College Greenhouse Spring Plant Sale **May 4th– May 8th 9a-3p**

Annual bedding plants, native plants, succulents, hanging baskets, houseplants and vegetables

Cash or check only 2400 W. Bradley Champaign Building W, enter through green awning.

Grand Prairie Friends: 2026 Plant Sale Online ordering starts **May 2nd at 8 am**

The catalog is available now, just visit their website, grandprairiefriends.org

CU Herb Society Annual Herb Sale **May 9th 8a-12n** (or until sold out) inside Lincoln Square

List of plants can be found at the club's website: cuherbsociety.org

(pot size: 3.5 inch, and most are only \$3)

Sola Gratia 2200 Philo Rd Urbana

Annual Spring Plant Sale **9a-5p, May 8-10 2026 plus May 15-17**

Over 175+ organically grown vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers

Use this link for details

<https://www.solagratiacsa.com/events/spring-plant-sale-save-the-dates>

April Humor from Mike Skreiner: Springtime Rule

“The spring has sprung,
the grass is ris,
I wonder where the birdies is,
I look up high to the sky,
I get sixpence in the eye,
Thank goodness cows don't fly”

Anon

IN THE GARDEN Plant id in the 21st century

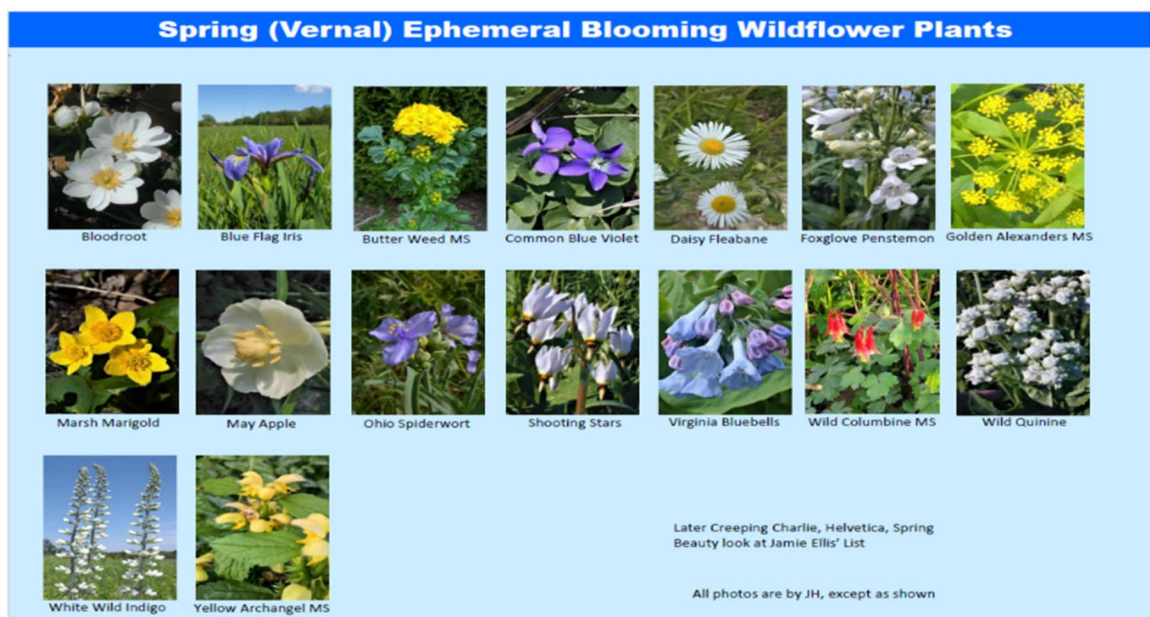
Many of us have well-controlled gardens with plants we have carefully installed and nurtured, but then something odd appears:

Formerly relied on guide books, such as Peterson Field Guides – *Wildflowers Northeastern/North Central North America* or the 3 volume set of *An illustrated Flora of the northern U.S.* These are excellent sources with detailed descriptions, growth habits and fine-lined illustrations. Very useful for expert researchers and extension specialists. Back in the “old” days of the 20th century the local extension specialist may have been the best contact to help the home gardener by taking specimens directly to their office. Another alternative was to send in a picture to the Midwest Gardener program at the Urbana’s local PBS station, WILL-TV.



Finally, the wide world of the web opened up bringing information, as everyone clamored to post anything and everything, mostly with good intentions with some exceptions. Out of this chaos there can be good, informed answers to our queries, but it may take some effort. One of the best apps for our cell phones does seem to be Google Lens, which can quickly do a web search with mostly good suggestions – was able to determine that the wild invader above as burdock. Facebook groups are also quite helpful, such as CU Plant People.

But lest we leave behind the human component, know that there are very knowledgeable personal guides available. Mike Skreiner has prepared this short introduction to the planned spring wildflower walk at Meadowbrook, which will now be led by Gary Russell.



It is to our benefit that the Extension Service for the State of Illinois still exists and has an active program in developing Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists.