

*Florets*  
*Twin City Garden Club*  
*February 2025*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Meeting:** 1 pm Tuesday February 18 2025

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect, Champaign

**Program:** All About Hostas

**Presenter:** Barb Schroeder

Shapes, sizes, colors, and some problems related to hosta areas will be presented. Program will also include learning about a few of the top hostas and landscaping ideas. Barb has been involved with Hostas since 1999. She is an active member in the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society, the Midwest Regional Hosta Society and the American Hosta Society.

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

#### **Refreshment break**

**Hostesses:** Jill Moore and Tori Corkery

**Floral arrangement by:** Tori Corkery

#### **Penny Pines Jar will be present**

**Membership:** Annual Club dues are \$20 and are payable now. You can pay with cash or check (made payable to Twin City Garden Club). Bring your payment to a club meeting or mail directly to Tori Corkery, 1104 N Cottonwood Rd, Urbana, IL 61802. Deadline for paying dues is April 1.

**Birthdays:** Patty Stoffel, 2/21; Vida Mazzocco, 2/26

#### **Business Meeting**

Call to Order

President's Opening Remarks

Recording Secretary Minutes/Approval

Treasurer's Report

Standing Committee Reports

Membership

Facebook

Sunshine

Program

Website

Philanthropy

Yearbook

Social

Adjourn

## **Floral Design Workshop: Petite Designs**

Saturday, April 5, 2025, 10 am - Noon

At the home of Tori Corkery, 1104 N Cottonwood Rd, Urbana, 61802

Cost: \$10

Tori Corkery, NGC Master Flower Show Judge, will lead this workshop on Petite Designs. Participants will create a completed floral design no larger than 5 inches. All materials will be provided. Participants should bring clippers/scissors. You can sign up at a club meeting or email Tori Corkery at [corkery@illinois.edu](mailto:corkery@illinois.edu). Deadline to register: Friday, March 28

## **Garden Clubs of Illinois Annual Convention, April 27-28, 2025**

All club members are encouraged to attend the GCI Annual Convention that will be held at the Hyatt Regency, 1400 Corporate Drive, Lisle, IL. The theme is "Rooted in Community: Connecting Through Gardens" highlighting how gardens and garden clubs can serve as hubs for community engagement, education, and environmental stewardship.

The convention includes Panel Discussion, Workshops, Sunday Awards Dinner, Optional Field Trip to the Morton Arboretum, Annual Business Meeting, Keynote Speaker, Floral Design, Raffles, and more.

The keynote speaker is Jill Koski, President and CEO at The Morton Arboretum.

More information and registration is online at

[https://www.gardenclubsofillinois.org/files/ugd/3320dc\\_705ee934c2d844bca6d24f0a8c8edde6.pdf](https://www.gardenclubsofillinois.org/files/ugd/3320dc_705ee934c2d844bca6d24f0a8c8edde6.pdf)

## IN THE GARDEN -- with monarchs

Not here yet, but where are they? Normally, may still be in Mexico and/or southern Texas, but another location has been reported: South Carolina, primarily along the coastal area. Though the report is recent, the knowledge of this regional habitat has been documented since the 1990s. Notably, this group does not migrate away from this area during the winter months, though there is some short travel from the inland areas to the nearby sea islands where they linger in their diapause stage.

Monarchs are native to North America, but over time have been able to establish populations in a variety of locations, including far away locations such as Australia, southern regions of Spain and Portugal, and even a small portion of northern Africa. Same genus, but are separate, distinct species, each of which carry the similarities of coloration: marked by distinctive orange wings, bordered in black with white spots each of which vary with the species with differing patterns.



*Danaus chrysippus* (African monarch)

Another shared characteristic is the use of milkweed plants as host plants for oviposition (egg laying) and as sources of nourishment for the subsequent caterpillar stage which feeds on the leaves of the milkweed plants that contains a milky sap full of nutrients and also a bonus gift of secondary plant constituents. The caterpillar does not metabolize these non-nutritive complex chemicals but does isolate and store them in its soft tissues which is subsequently carried over to the full mature stage of the butterfly form. These non-nutritive constituents are complex chemicals, commonly called cardiac glycosides, that are toxic not to the monarch, but to predators such as birds and even mammals.

Whether it is the Midwest, South Carolina or Africa, each of these monarch groups have established a mutually beneficial relationship with specific milkweed plants, that is, the milkweeds that are native to their shared specific location. This does seem obvious for the widely scattered groups, but has become confusing in some places, especially ones that have promoted the use of tropical milkweed here in the Midwest. Also, a rather attractive milkweed, *Gomphocarpus physocarpus*, is often promoted as an ornamental addition to Midwest gardens – which is okay as a source of nectar for visiting monarchs, but not for rearing the next generation.

Do note that it is the caterpillar form that feeds on the toxin-containing leaves of the milkweed plants and only milkweeds, no other. But the monarch is always in need of nourishment wherever it can be found and will sip nectar and pollinate most any flowering form that it finds. though it does have some favorites, such as coneflowers, asters and even butterfly bush.

Not yet endangered, but now listed as threatened the North American monarch is in dire need of habitat that supports the growth of native milkweeds. We can do this by buying wise and supporting local groups such as Grand Prairie Friends. Native milkweeds for this area include tall green (*Asclepias histella*), swamp (*A. incarnata*), prairie (*A. sullivanitti*), common (*A. syriaca*), butterfly weed (*A. tuberosa*), and whorled (*A. verticulata*). Reputable online vendors such as American Meadows and Prairie Nursey are also good sources. Suggestions for planting from the University of Illinois Extension Service is to use several of the various above species throughout the pollinator garden. Good online sources on the many aspects of monarchs can be accessed at [MonarchJointVenture.org](http://MonarchJointVenture.org) and [xerces.org/monarchs](http://xerces.org/monarchs) which help make for good inspiration during these cold, cold days as we contemplate our summer gardens.