

Florets

Twin City Garden Club

May 2026



Announcements

Meeting: 1 pm Tuesday May 19, 2026 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect, Champaign

Program: Flower Show 101

Presenter: Tori Corkery

Tori Corkery, a National Garden Club, Inc. (NGC) Master Flower Show Judge, has been entering and judging flower shows for over 30 years. She will present a program which provides a full overview of flower shows and will include a discussion of the upcoming Garden Clubs of Illinois State Flower Show that will be held July 23-25, 2026 at Lincoln Square Mall.

Refreshment break Hostesses: Regina Lee and Donna Edwards

Floral Arrangement: Lisa Sur

Plant/Seed Exchange

Donate to Plant-a-Tree

Horticulture Tip of the month

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: Mike Skreiner, 5/4; Frances Simpson, 5/9, Donna Edwards, 5/19,

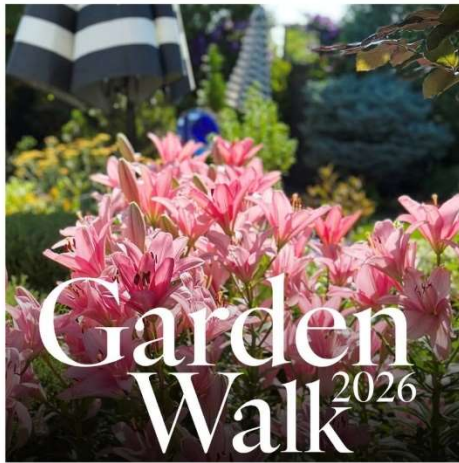
Erin Hardway, 5/23, Heather Munro, 5/24 Susie Kautzer, 5/31, Jeffrey Matlak 5/31

May Humor from Mike Skreiner:

Eye Care Practice, Rule: Good eye care practice is very important for your quality of life. Example: a friend, retired Marine, suffered multiple injuries including the loss of an eye. To save him embarrassment, the Veterans Health Agency provided him with a glass eye. As good friends, he and I have been in frequent contact. I told him I would be in the area where he lived, and would like to visit him around 2 pm on Saturday – would that be alright? He responded, sure that will be alright – I'll keep an eye out for you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Japanese “Garden of Peace” Open House, the personal garden of TCGC member Craig McMonigal 1620 Champaign
May 23rd 1-4 pm
Donations accepted, with all proceeds going to the Eastern Illinois Foodbank



Champaign County Master Garden Walk June 20 2026

Visit <https://extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/garden-walk-2026>

for all details

Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. State Flower Show

On the Road Again
A National Garden Clubs, Inc. Standard Flower Show

Presented by
Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.
at
Lincoln Square Mall
300 S. Broadway Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801

July 23-25, 2026



Admission is free and open to the public
4-8 pm, Friday July 24
and
8 am-Noon, Saturday July 25

Member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Central Region

IN THE GARDEN with Sunflowers

Helianthus annuus, a tall, swaying yellow sunflower is a native plant to the Great plains area, but is also considered adaptable enough for areas in the Midwest such as Illinois. Also known as the “common sunflower” and “true sunflower” its origin has been traced back to the southern regions of North America. As with maize, beans, and squash (the 3 sisters) sunflowers were cultivated from wild plants and selected for domestication by Native peoples as early as 2300 BCE using the seeds as a source of food and medicine and the tall, sturdy stalks as building materials. It also has a complex history with the social development of both the Aztec and Mayan cultures.



Time out for a botany lesson. Basic strategy: angiosperm flowers have stamens (pollen source) and pistils (receptor, location of seed development). These structures are easily seen in daylilies. For the flower family of Asteraceae, which includes asters, daisies and sunflowers, there is a central disc with hundreds of tiny complete flowers which contain both the stamens and pistils. The colorful side petal-like structure are rays that surround the disc and serve as visual cues for bees, moths and butterflies to visit.



With the introduction of numerous hybrids of *Helianthus* there are numerous choices available now that vary not only in color (orange and red plus varying shades of yellow) and heights from as tall as 12 ft down to so-called kid size of 10 – 36 inches) but always with the large, distinctive central disc and long rays.

Being annuals, *Helianthus* are most usually sold as seeds, though some vendors do purvey small seedlings to hasten growing. The best time for seed planting is now: mid-May after the last (hopefully) frost event, but can also produce good flowers if planted as late as mid-July. Peak flowering time is late summer till early autumn. Perhaps, obviously, plant in a sunny (at least 6-8 hours of full sun) location and preference is given for soils that drain well. Best suggestions of seed placement is 2-3 seeds approx. 6 – 12 inches apart depending on the stated height and at a shallow depth of 1-2 inches. Seedlings should be appearing within 7-14 days and may need to pull out the weak ones so as not to overcrowd.

Another botanical sidenote: There are two distinctly types of “sunflowers”, 1) *Helianthus* and 2) *Heliopsis*. *Heliopsis* are shorter and more compact, as well as being perennial plants with extremely tiny seed. Can be misleading when trying an online search, but still so beautiful if chosen for your garden.