

*FLORETS*  
*Twin City Garden Club*  
*February 2023*



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Meeting:** 1 pm Tuesday February 21 2023

Classroom Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect, Champaign

**Program:** Berries and Flour

**Presenter:** Heidi Leuszler

Heidi Leuszler started Berries and Flour as the synergy of all of her passions: culinary skills, ecology of native landscapes, growing of plants, foraging for wild foods, and teaching people about the plentiful Midwest land. Her bakery ties these many skills together into a delicious box that others can easily share.

**Refreshment break**

**Hostesses:** Cheryl Weber and Karen Marley

**Floral arrangement by:** Tori Corkery

Penny Pines Jar will be present

**Membership:** Reminder that dues for the coming year are payable to the Treasurer, Tori Corkery

**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

New Business

Adjourn

**February birthdays:** Kathy Guido, 2/19, Patty Stoffel, 2/21

## **FLORAL DESIGN**

**Class:** "Calm Waters"

A 12-inch design in the manner of Oriental design style. Underlay required. Fresh and/or dried plant material. Staged at eye level (mantel height) approximately 55" from the floor; covered in black.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS -- GCI**

Garden Clubs of Illinois Annual Meeting April 16-17 2023

Meeting is at the Marriott Hotel in Naperville IL

Details of the events are on pp. 8-9 in the Garden Glories (Winter 2023 edition) sent to us as a pdf file earlier this year.

District IV Annual Meeting May 22 2023

After a long hiatus due to COVID, the annual gathering of the District IV clubs will resume. Hosted by the Rantoul Garden Club: meeting, lunch and a stroll will be at the Country Cottage Farm near Rantoul. Carpooling is advised. More info to follow.

## IN THE GARDEN with AIR PLANTS

Here comes another one, a plant not rooted in soil, Tillandsias, commonly called “air plants”. Unlike mistletoe these are not parasitic, but rather epiphytic, using small roots as physical support while drawing no water or sustenance from that anchor. Native to the southeastern U.S. (Florida, Louisiana, Texas) and the warm climes of Central and South America these unusual plants have become charming additions to many indoor gardens. The native forms do tend to be larger occupying the branches of trees or shrubs. The smaller forms have been propagated in wholesale nurseries as ornamentals and then marketed to garden outlets.



Every plant needs water and nutrients. Soil bound plants receive these requirements through their roots. Other types of epiphytic plants such as bromeliads and orchids have developed functional roots that complete these tasks as well. For the nearly rootless Tillandsias, numerous tiny hair-like projections on the leaves, trichomes, function to absorb its water needs. Furthermore, the key association on the trichomes is the presence of bacterial populations that are able to transform the nitrogen in the surrounding air to the soluble form of nitrates for uptake by the plant.

The simple instructions for air plant care can be: “mist, place in bright light and allow good air circulation”. Better instructions for watering are to soak the plant on a weekly basis, completely submerging it in water for at least 20-30 minutes, but not much longer than that. A sign of dehydration is leaves that curl inward instead of opening outwards. Suggestions for bright light are locations near an east or west window. Too much light can cause splotchy leaves with brown spots. As for air circulation, perhaps resist the suggestions for display that involve placing in glass enclosures, such as terrariums.

Note that Tillandsias are part of the Bromeliaceae family and thus do share a common trait that as the plant matures it produces a single colorful bloom, though it does take a long period of time, which could be as long as 3 years or more. Depending on preferences, choices can be made for acquiring blooming air plants, but these seem available mostly from online vendors, remembering that the bloom may only last for a few months before progressing to the propagation phase which may include producing side shoots (the pups) or in some types, self-pollinating which will produce seeds.

<https://airplantshop.com/>

<https://airplantforest.com/>

<https://plantoddities.myshopify.com/>