



THE HIDDEN GEM

1 September 2026

President's Message

"September is the month of wonderful weather." — Unknown

Thank goodness! It has certainly been a stormy, smoky, and hot summer this year—though all that rain has been a wonderful blessing for our plants and trees. I can't wait for the transition to cooler days, complete with golden light, crisp refreshing mornings, and leaves turning brilliant shades of red, orange, and gold. While saying goodbye to summer is always a bit bittersweet for gardeners, September offers a perfect bridge before late fall and winter arrive.

It's a lovely season of transition for our club as well, as we begin planning for our fall and winter containers. We have some fantastic programs lined up for the remainder of the year, alongside early planning for our 75th anniversary—how exciting!

Looking forward to our fall programs,
Sue Hazelwood
TCGC President

Town & Country Garden Club of Libertyville celebrates 74 years of serving the greater Libertyville area with civic plantings, scholarship awards, local charitable donations and our Hidden Gems Garden Walk

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The Hidden Gem newsletter is published eight times/year as a .pdf. Join our mailing list [HERE](#).

Submissions are from Club members; contact us at towncountrygardenclub5@gmail.com regarding an upcoming event listing or with membership inquiries.

Editors: Ann Baker, Laura Edwards, Janet Lichtenberger, Sally Steele

Vol. 5 Issue 6

CIVIC PLANTINGS

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Civic Center Butterfly Garden



Library Pollinator Garden



Civic Center

**Our summer
blooms are
beautiful.
Thank you
again for your
efforts.**



Train Station



Cook Mansion

Photos Sally Steele



Library

PROGRAMS

Our August program was a wonderful trip to the garden of Will Radler - the man credited with inventing and developing the Knock Out Rose. Will Radler's mission: "My drive to create roses that bring joy and inspiration through their beauty, along with their disease-resistance and low-maintenance, continues to fuel my passion for my work. My success in research and development has allowed me to have the potential to leave a legacy of education and philanthropy to improve the lives of others." Our members were impressed with his work and gardens. Our lunch at That's Amore capped a delightful day of fun and friendship.



Don't
forget!

September Meeting
Wednesday, September 2
11 a.m.

1st Presbyterian Church,
Libertyville

Barbara Collins
"Circumnavigating Iceland"

BY BECKY SITZ, U OF I EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER

Long Flowering Bulbs to Plant This Fall

Fall is the best time to plant our favorite spring and summer flowering bulbs. Treat your future self by choosing long-blooming bulbs that you'll enjoy come spring! Here are a few to choose from:

1. Tulip 'China Town': Full sun, 12" tall, zones 3-8, last for 3 weeks in late spring. This tulip is offers a pretty contrast in pale pink and moss green.
2. Daffodil 'Tete-a-Tete': Full sun to part shade, 6-8" tall, zones 3-9. This is an early season daffodil with buttery yellow cups and multiple blooms per stem.
3. Allium 'Globemaster': Full sun, 20-30" tall, zones 5-8. This May blooming bulb is a hallmark of giant alliums with spheres of purple florets that measure 10" across on stout stems. Sterile bulb so reseeding isn't an issue.
4. Fritillaria 'Crown Imperial Lutea Maxima': Full sun to part shade, 3-4' tall, zones 5-8. Delicate stems give way to pendulous yellow bell blooms. This genus also comes in orange and red.
5. Glory of the Snow: Full to part sun, 4-6" tall, zones 3-8. Late winter bloomer with star-shaped purple-blue florets with white centers. ***WARNING this plant naturalizes and spreads aggressively by self-seeding and underground bulblets. Plant in a contained area.

Source:

'21 Longest-Flowering Bulbs to Plant for this Season'

epicgardening.com At this time, the article is not accessible.

Information is available via google as to the general content of the article.



CONSERVATION CORNER



Let the Garden Rest: Reducing Light Pollution

by Ann Baker, NGC Environment Consultant

Six TCGC members attended the GCI Summer Meeting. Valerie Blaine, an advocate of [Dark Skies Chicago](#), gave a talk titled “Where Are the Stars?”

From Ms. Blaine we learned that while artificial light after sunset may make paths welcoming, excessive or poorly directed lighting can disrupt the landscape. Moths and other nocturnal insects often circle lights until exhausted or becoming easy prey. Because insects support birds and other wildlife, these losses hurt our garden ecology. Plants depend on cycles of light and darkness. Night lighting can interfere with internal clocks, altering flowering, dormancy, leaf drop, and growth. It may change seasonal signals that connect plants with pollinators.

Since the 1950s, expanding cities, suburbs, highways and commercial areas have filled the night with increasing amounts of artificial light. Recent observations indicate that global sky brightness increased by an average of 9.6 percent per year between 2011 and 2022—many stars once visible from our neighborhoods have disappeared into skyglow. In response, the dark-sky movement is protecting naturally dark places through responsible-lighting policies, education and the designation of Dark Sky Parks, Reserves and Communities.

Never fear - light pollution is the only pollution that can be completely reversed!

Gardeners can help by using outdoor light only where and when it is needed. Turn lights off before bedtime, or install timers and motion sensors. Choose shielded fixtures that point downward, keeping light away from plants, properties and the sky. Use the lowest brightness and avoid blue-rich, cool-white lighting. These generally attract fewer insects. Solar lights should be switched off or removed when unnecessary.



Ms Blaine’s guidance when choosing outdoor lighting is to ask, “Is it useful? Controlled? Targeted? Lowest level possible? Warm color?” A darker garden saves energy while protecting pollinators, plants and the natural beauty of night.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH: BETH NEWELL

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I was born in Twin Falls, Idaho. We moved around quite a bit during my early childhood, living in rural towns in Idaho and Oregon. Wherever we lived, my father always had a large vegetable garden. One of my best memories as a small child was helping my father plant his garden. I would help plant the seeds, and then weed and water the garden. As the vegetables grew, my father would say, "Okay, Beth, let's go out and pick the veggies for dinner!" Such fun for a little girl.

My mother always had beautiful flower gardens, and her pride was her rose garden. I attended high school in Boise, Idaho. After high school, I lived in Italy for a year and a half. One thing I will always remember is that every apartment or home had pots of flowers going up the steps and window boxes filled with flowers. The Italians love their flowers!

When I returned from Italy, I attended the University of Idaho. After that, three of my college friends and I moved to San Francisco, California. We got jobs, and I lived there for two years. I was a flight attendant for United Airlines. I met and married my husband, Bill, in San Francisco.

In 1962, we moved to Libertyville, Illinois, and raised our family. We have two daughters, Molly and Jenni, two granddaughters, Kaitlyn and Shannon, one great-grandson, Wyatt, and one son-in-law, Dave. Wherever we lived, we always had flower gardens. Presently, we live at Lake Forest Place retirement community. Unfortunately, we don't have our own flower garden, but we do have pretty gardens and flower pots around the campus, which are lovely.

I enjoy the Town and Country Garden Club of Libertyville so much. The enthusiasm of all the members is wonderful. Every member joins in and takes part in everything that we do. Such a warm and friendly group of ladies. I am lucky to be a member of the Town and Country Garden Club of Libertyville.

NATIVE OF THE MONTH: RATTLESNAKE MASTER

Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) is a distinctive native perennial that adds structure, texture, and ecological value to the garden. Its stiff, blue-green, yucca-like leaves form a striking base, while branching stems rise three to five feet tall and produce unusual, silvery-white flower globes in midsummer.



Rattlesnake master is a pollinator powerhouse. Its nectar-rich flowers attract native bees, butterflies, beetles, flies, and beneficial wasps. It is also a host plant for the uncommon rattlesnake-master borer moth. The seedheads remain attractive into fall and winter, providing architectural interest when many other perennials have faded. Remove them to limit self-seeding! Plant rattlesnake master in full sun and average, dry-to-medium, well-drained soil. It tolerates clay, sandy, rocky, and relatively lean soils and becomes drought-tolerant once established. Avoid overly rich soil and excessive fertilizer, which can cause the tall stems to become floppy.

PERENNIAL OF THE MONTH: GARDEN PHLOX

Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) are the workhorse of the summer garden - bright, beautiful and reliable. They are long-blooming native perennials prized for fragrant flower clusters in shades of white, pink, lavender, purple, and red. Blooming from midsummer into early fall, they provide color when many perennials are fading. Butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators love them, and they make excellent cut flowers.

Plant garden phlox in full sun to light shade and fertile, well-drained soil. Consistent moisture produces the best flowering, so water during dry periods and apply mulch to keep roots cool. Water at the plant's base and provide generous spacing and good air circulation to discourage powdery mildew. Deadhead spent clusters to extend blooming, and divide crowded plants every three to four years.



Notable mildew-resistant cultivars include white-flowered 'David,' lavender-pink 'Jeana,' and magenta 'Robert Poore.' The compact Flame series works well in smaller gardens.



****REGISTRATION IS OPEN****

Monday, October 5:

Executive Committee Meeting

Joseph Tychonievich "Great Garden Design for Bad Garden Designers"
David Lowenstein "Bugging out: What's that crawling on my plant?"

Tuesday, October 6:

General Membership Meeting

Heidi Grasman "Growing Into 2027: New Plants You Won't Want to Miss"
Joannee DeBruhl "Shoots and Microgreens"
Joe Summers "Frog Approved Water Gardens"
Elizabeth Lumbert "Discover Dow Gardens and its Legacy of Beauty"
 (special virtual tour of Dow Gardens)

****Organize a Watch Party for added fun with friends****
 (individual registration required)

****Zoom training opportunities to follow****

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

~ Hosted by Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. ~

**YOU WILL BE EMAILED A LINK TO THE CONFERENCE
 THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE EVENT**

SAVE THE DATE

**2027
 NGC Convention**

May 13 - 17

Madison WI

**Garden Clubs of Illinois
 "Get The Lead Out"
 Flower Show Symposium
 September 28-29, 2026**

**The Irish Cottage Inn & Suites
 9853 US Hwy 20, Galena IL 61036**

All are Welcome

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Presents

Sowing the Seeds of Success

**Digital Organization and tools, Improved Award
 Applications, and Modernizing Scholarship
 Outreach & Process**

Explore practical ways to help your club thrive! We'll answer questions about digital tools cloud storage and online payments; share tips for creating stronger and more compelling state award applications; and show how online forms and fillable PDFs can simplify scholarship applications and attract more applicants.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



**September 22, 2026
 2 - 5 p.m.**



**Mount Prospect Public Library
 10 S Emerson St,
 Mount Prospect, IL**



**Complimentary for
 District IX members**



UPCOMING EVENTS



Hidden Gems Garden Walk

Hidden Gems Garden Walk

June 26, 2027

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Beautiful Private Libertyville Gardens

Open one day only.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Illinois Mycological Association
Display & Sale**

Sunday, September 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe,
Illinois**

**See 50-100 varieties of locally
foraged mushrooms and learn about
fungi from association members and
mycologists. Mushroom-related
books and merchandise will also be
available. The show is free, but
regular Garden admission and
parking fees apply to nonmembers.**



Landscaping for Birds

**September 9, 2026, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30
p.m.**

**Sponsored by
The University of Illinois Extension Lake
County Master Gardeners, SWALCO, and the
Lake County Forest Preserve District**

**Virtual
Register [HERE](#)**

Central States Dahlia Society Show

September 19 - 20

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Chicago Botanic Garden
Burnstein Hall**

**Get ready for an explosive burst of color that
will leave you loving dahlias! Presented by the
Central States Dahlia Society, this judged
exhibit will feature 16 total displays using nearly
1,000 dahlia blooms.**