

IN THE

Garden

Quarterly – Spring 2022



Tulsa Garden Center
at Woodward Park

Bird on a Wire

By Laura Chalus, CEO, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

It wasn't a wire, to be precise, but a feed sack string, although a bird on the other end there most assuredly was.

At eight years old, an ability which brought me much delight at the time, and would have been listed at the top of my eight-year-old self's resume, was catching sparrows which had been unknowingly trapped in my Mom's chicken coop.

There was a playhouse-sized wooden

chicken house in the front, with a screened enclosure in the back about the same dimensions as the main structure. My father had built it for my mother when she decided she wanted chickens, and over that same summer I had meticulously perfected my sparrow-catching technique.

I would sneak up alongside the chicken house wall, peak around the corner to assess the flock, and when the moment was right, jump out, twist the little piece of wood holding

the door closed, and jump in poised for action.

The English sparrows who, moments before, had been industriously eating spilled chicken feed amongst the scattered straw, would fly up in panic at my abrupt appearance and get trapped in the upper corners of the chicken-wire. I caught one easily enough, and efficiently tied its little foot with a string which had conveniently materialized from my pants pocket.





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On cover: Star Magnolia in Tulsa
Arboretum. Photo by Meredith Jones.

Once outside, it was all fun and games watching the little bird go up and down in the air like a yo-yo throw trick, with me holding tight to the other end of the string. That is, right up until my bright-eyed delight was abruptly extinguished by our family cat, who came sailing out of nowhere and grabbed the bird midair.

Let's just suffice it to say that what happened next made me involuntary shutter for years, but that memory was one which provided me with a lifelong lesson which I like to think was worthy of that poor little guy's sacrifice.

Trying to exert too much control over Mother Nature, more times than not, is simply an exercise in chaos theory. Eventually, systems will break down no matter how much effort you deploy, and Mother Nature will win the war, much to our chagrin.

Instead, wouldn't it be better to try and work with Mother Nature and not against her? Why not leave your spent perennials intact through the winter months to feed the birds, regardless of what the neighbors may think? And why should we drive ourselves crazy trying to rake up every fallen leaf when those winter layers lovingly harbor sleeping insects who are critical to a healthy backyard ecosystem?



Although I was the sole mourner at a small but heartfelt funeral that day, I tried very hard not to hold it against the cat. I knew she was just doing what she instinctively knew to do, while I, on the other hand, had been the one who tried to control what shouldn't have been restrained.

Sometimes you just have to let go, cut that feed sack string, and respect the significance of giving our natural environment the freedom to remain wild..... 🌿



SPRINGFEST

at Woodward Park

Friday, April 8th, 9:00am-4:00pm

Saturday, April 9th, 9:00am-3:00pm

Come kick off the spring gardening season in Woodward Park. Shop dozens of vendors selling a wide variety of plants, garden art, and more, and talk with expert horticulturalists to solve all your gardening questions.

SpringFest will be an educational event on the lawn in front of the Linnaeus Teaching Garden at Woodward Park. Food will be available for purchase, so bring a blanket and enjoy your lunch in the Garden or adjacent Arboretum.

tulsagardencenter.org/springfest

Annuals are the Bee's Knees

By Andy Fusco, Director of Horticulture, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

Perennials, plants that live over multiple growing seasons, seem to be the name of the game these days. In recent years, gardeners of all skill levels have moved towards these long-lasting plants to fill their landscapes year after year. Overall, perennials seem like the obvious choice for gardeners whose goal is sustainability. They save money in the long run and with the right plants, can add much needed biodiversity and other ecological benefits to our urban ecosystems.

As a young horticulturist, I too was a perennial purist. I simply did not have the budget to put annual bedding plants in my garden every spring. Add to that the *unimaginable* thought of planting something I knew would not survive the first frost and the already mentioned benefits of perennials, I doubled down on my skepticism of any and all annual flowers. That is, until I started planting them for a living. My eyes would widen as I saw breathtaking plantings of large sweeps of coleus, petunias, begonias, Joseph's coat, and other bedding plants. Such fantastical displays of color could not be achieved with perennials alone. I started to come around to these tried-and-true beauties that have been flying off garden center shelves for generations.

Turns out, they do have benefits in the garden as well. Adding annuals amongst your perennials is a great



Bee's Knees Petunia by All American Selections

way to bridge the gap, so to speak, between early and late flowering species. They also reduce the amount of exposed bare soil, which acts as a green mulch, choking out weeds. And for the same reason that we enjoy annuals (their flowers), our pollinator friends will also enjoy the extra nectar and pollen sources throughout the season.

Many of the popular wildflower species on the market are true annuals—species that grow, flower,

set seed, and die in a single growing season. These are great options for those that want to add some annual interest to their perennials without breaking the bank. They can easily be sewn directly into the garden by seed.

The annual I'm in love with this year, though, is a bedding plant that's been a mainstay of flower beds going back decades—the petunia, specifically a new All American Selections winner, Petunia Bee's

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Arbor Day 2022

**Join us on Friday, April
29th at 10:00AM
for a series of
tree inspired events
in observation of
Arbor Day!**

**On hand to contribute to
the celebration will be
special guests **Up With
Trees** and former Tulsa
Mayor **Rodger Randle.****



*Pictured above is Rodger Randle and Mrs. Mary Athens
planting a Black Oak tree for Arbor Day in
Woodward Park in 1990.*

Bee's Knees continued from page 5

Knees. It is the first petunia to win the organization's distinguished 'Gold Medal' since the 1950s.

Petunias first entered the American and European horticulture scene in the mid 1800s after a French botanist (aptly named Petun) brought seeds back from Argentina. The most popular species were the white flowered *Petunia axillaris* and purple flowered *Petunia violacea*, which would eventually be hybridized into the petunia we know today, *Petunia x hybrida*.

Today, Petunias come in an almost full range of colors, flower size, and shape. There are double flowered, single flowered, spreaders, mounders, and the list of cultivars grows every year. One thing breeders have failed to do, until now, was to create a truly vibrant yellow petunia. In the fifties, a petunia called 'Summer Sun' was released and won many awards for its color. It was the first petunia to resemble anything close to yellow, but in reality, was more of a warm beige. Although there was improvement over the years, many of the "yellow" petunias on the market remained dull compared to the other annual flowers that offered better options in the yellow spectrum.

That is, until recently. Petunia Bee's Knees is a far cry from 'Summer Sun'. The yellow flowers stand out starkly against the green foliage and keep their strong color throughout the season, unlike other varieties that can bleach out in our



harsh Oklahoma summers. They can be used in mixed containers, hanging baskets, or as a blooming groundcover (my personal favorite).

Petunias grow best in full sun, with regular watering, and are often known to be 'hungry' plants. Traditionally, they need regular fertilizing throughout the growing season to really flourish. Bee's Knees is no different, but if planted with a slow-release fertilizer, such as Osmocote, they do just fine without any additional feeding. If you want to see them at their full potential, fertilize with a balanced liquid fertilizer every two to three weeks starting in July.

Petunia Bee's Knees is bound to be a hot commodity this year because it is as its name suggests, the bee's

knees (sorry, I couldn't resist). Early in February, we received plugs from All American Selections to be grown out and planted in our gardens. I'm excited to announce we will also have enough to offer a limited number of 4-inch pots for sale at [SpringFest 2022](#), in addition to many other wonderful perennials straight from the Linnaeus Teaching Garden. Be sure to come out April 8th and 9th to Oklahoma's oldest garden festival. There will be goodies for every type of gardener.

If you remain a perennial purist, and scoff at my admiration of the Bee's Knees Petunia, believe me, I get it. I was once just like you, but boy did I start having a lot more fun when I opened my mind to new possibilities in the garden. 🌻



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Daylilies and Roses, a Blooming Success


By Kathryn Earle, Horticulturist at University of Tulsa, and TADS Member

Tulsa Area Daylily Society (TADS) will be celebrating their 26th year by hosting the **Region 11 American Hemerocallis (Daylily) Society Conference** this June. Region 11 encompasses the tri-state area of Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Unfortunately, this means that our club will not have a June plant sale, but we will be back in action September 17th with our annual **Bareroot Daylily Sale**.

Two years ago this May, our group was allotted an area in the upper section of the historic Tulsa Rose Garden for a space to display daylilies. We broke ground in April of 2020 and our first installation of daylilies arrived and were planted in May of that same year. We were very excited that our first installation gave off beautiful blooms and that encouraged us to expand in 2021.

As of November 2021, TADS has an inventory of over one hundred daylilies for display, and an added benefit to the new area is a perpetual growing area for future daylily sales events. TADS normally participates in two annual plants sales, including a June potted daylily sale and September bareroot sale.

Several of our members have become active hybridizers of daylilies, including the beautiful daylily called 'Bixby Beauty' which was hybridized by our late president, Randall Barron in 2014. This display garden is allowing us to feature hybridizers in our tri-state area in addition to hybridizers across the US.

TADS meets the first Thursday of the month March through December. Our first 2022 meeting is March 3rd at 7:00 pm, where the guest speaker will be Karen Watkins presenting Plants to Attract Pollinators and Beneficial Insects to your Daylily Garden. If you would like more information, or would like to join TADS, please contact us at www.tulsadaylily.org or tulsaareadaylilysociety@yahoo.com. 



Above: 'Bixby Beauty' hybridized by Randall Barron (single flower)
Below: TADS Display Bed in Tulsa Rose Garden





Benefits of Membership

Reasons why it pays to be a member:

Subscription to the quarterly Tulsa Garden Center E-Newsletter: *In The Garden*.

Free or Discounted Admission to American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Gardens

(ahsgardening.org): FREE admission to Myriad Botanic Garden in OKC, Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, and hundreds more!

Discounts on Tulsa Garden Center Programs and Events:

A Tulsa Garden Center member would save nearly \$150 on the Native Plant Certification Program and \$25 a ticket on our gala fundraiser, *A Return to Wine & Roses*

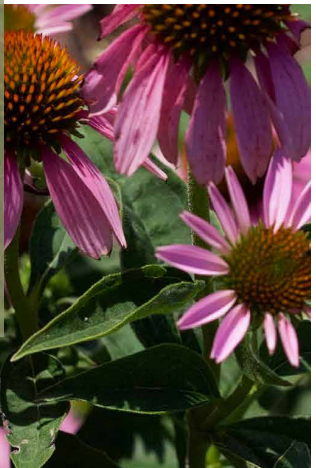
Invitations to Special Members-only Events

Free Preferred Parking During *SpringFest* at Woodward Park on April 8th and 9th.

Discounts at Local Nurseries

Become a member or gift one to a friend at:

www.TulsaGardenCenter.org/join



Upcoming Iris Society Events in Woodward Park

By Jim Palmer, Tulsa Area Iris Society President

The Tulsa Area Iris Society (TAIS) will host two spring show and sales this year. The first will be on Saturday, April 23 and the second will be on Saturday, April 30. A major change for our show and sales this year is that they will be held on Saturday only, not Saturday and Sunday as we have done in years past. Both shows are free and open to the public from 12:00–4:00 pm.

TAIS will also be participating in SpringFest again this year and we will be selling potted irises while they last. People joining TAIS for the very first time at SpringFest or either spring iris show will have their annual membership extended to August 31, 2023. Annual membership cost is \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family.

The upcoming TAIS regular meeting schedule is:

March 17 – Making Your Yard More Bird Friendly presented by Jeff Cox of the Tulsa Audubon Society.

April 21 – Care of Median and Reblooming Irises presented by Les Burgard of the Tulsa Area Iris Society.

May 19 – Historic Irises presented by Cathy Egerer of the Historic Iris Preservation Society.

June 16 – Alan Storjahann, host of the KRMG Gardening Show.

All meetings are free and open to the public. Meetings start with a meet and greet at 6:30 pm and presentation at 7:00 pm.



Drama Queen iris

We are excited to announce a new way to connect with the Tulsa Area Iris Society. Nextdoor.com is a website with a mission to connect people with neighbors and others in their local area. TAIS has created a new group on Nextdoor titled **Tulsa Area Iris Growers**. You do not need to be a member of TAIS to join us on Nextdoor. The goal of this new online group is to share growing tips and event information with anyone interested in beautifying

their landscape with irises. You can also find Tulsa Area Iris Society on Facebook or on our website at www.tulsairis.org.

Bloom season is upon us, and everyone is invited to visit the Tulsa Area Iris Society display garden located in Woodward Park. While peak bloom time is usually mid-April to mid-May, the earliest irises will start blooming around early March and the last irises finish around mid-June. 🌸

Tulsa Perennial Club

Perennials & More
Plant Sale



Saturday
May 7th

9:00am - 1:00pm

Tulsa Garden Center, Rose Garden

What's Growing On with Tulsa Garden Club?!

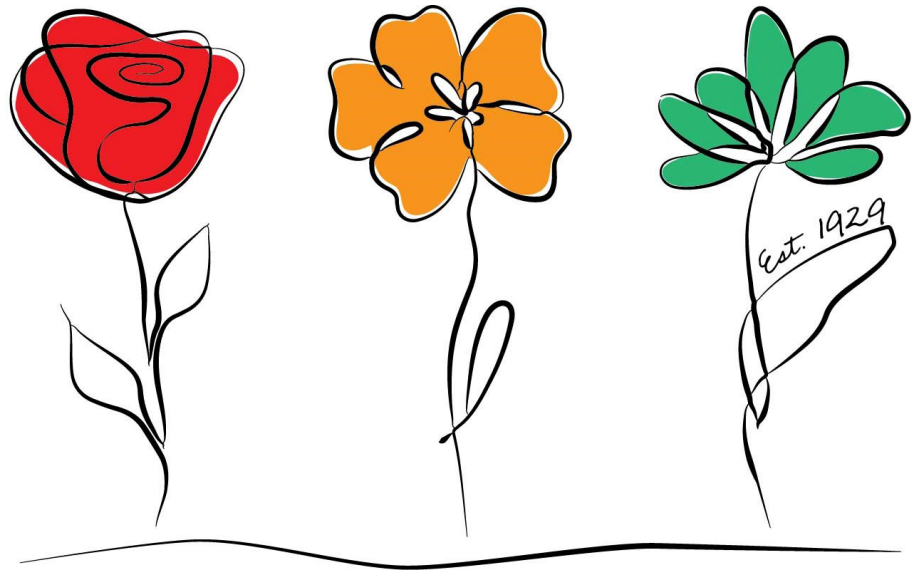
By Brenda Michael-Haggard, Tulsa Garden Club member

Oklahoma's oldest garden club brings its gardening education vision to life through year-round programming, flower shows and garden tours. Tulsa Garden Club Members are working to extend that vision from its 1929 founding through springtime 2022 activities.

On Saturday, March 19, Tulsa Garden Club stages its flower show, "Friends from Sea to Sea." FREE and open to the public, 1:00–4:00 pm, at Tulsa Garden Center. Visitors will experience exhibits translating the global floral and cultural theme through horticulture specimens, floral artistry, botanical arts (including photography), and educational exhibits.

Members will demonstrate creative floral design at 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm and, again, at 3:30 pm, and a local knife sharpener will be available to hone gardening hand tools for a nominal fee. At 2:00 pm, elementary students will be recognized for their entries in this year's Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear poster contest. The contest is a decades-long partnership with National Garden Clubs and U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

Then, Saturday, May 14, 2022, the Club's 71st Annual Garden Tour will feature five gardens and three interiors in south Tulsa and midtown. Our community's longest-running educational, charitable public




Tulsa Garden Club

gardening • community • education

garden tour will showcase large and small green spaces and the creative designs featuring outdoor living with horticulture, hardscape, and lightscape. Prize tickets will be available at the Rodgers' garden for a magnificent planter and plantings, valued at \$500, courtesy of Cohlmia's, The Plant Place.

Garden Tour proceeds benefit the Club's formal and informal gardening education projects, including Tulsa Garden Center and horticulture and landscape architecture students

of Oklahoma State University and Tulsa Community College's Second Chance program at Dick Conner Correctional Center and other gardening education partners. \$10 Advance Tickets and Patron options are available at Tulsa Garden Center or via Eventbrite on our website.

For questions, contact President Rose Schultz at (641) 777-3336, or visit our website to learn more about the Tulsa Garden Club's meetings, events, and educational programs – <https://tulsagardenclub.org>. 

Scat and Fishes: An Outdoor Exploration

By Brian Bovaird, Outdoor Classroom Program Director

Outdoor Classroom at Woodward Park is the Tulsa Garden Center's newest outreach program, serving over 12,000 Tulsa area, older elementary students since it started in the fall of 2015 at Camp Loughridge. Our young naturalists primarily come from low-income and marginalized communities in the Tulsa-area, where STEM inequities and lack of career mentoring are prevalent. Outdoor Classroom has made them part of a rich STEM ecosystem spanning across non-traditional educators.

Woodward Park is where STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) naturally occur, kids discover themselves, and human potential is awakened, yet it is often geographically outside the communities we strive hardest to serve. In order to be more inclusive, therefore, we realized that we needed to evolve and rethink our outreach, so this spring the Tulsa Garden Center partnered with the STEM Hub: North Tulsa to provide nature-based programming for our small but mighty explorers.

STEM Hub: North Tulsa is a joint venture between the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance and the Tulsa Dream Center which connects North Tulsa youth to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics experiences



OCWP Program Director, Brian Bovaird, with inquisitive student.

which engage, equip, and empower students to pursue STEM careers.

As one of the partnering agencies, our Naturalist team designs and facilitates weekly, outdoors after-school experiences for TPS (Tulsa Public Schools) affiliated schools, including John Hope Franklin, Greenwood Learning Academy, Tulsa Legacy Charter School, Walt

Whitman, Emerson Montessori, Marian Anderson, and Deborah Brown Community School. And the exciting part is that all seven of these schools' fifth graders will be attending Outdoor Classroom this Spring at Woodward Park, and four for the first time this school year!

Most recently, our team led seventeen young adventurers, and

six equally excited chaperones, on a nearly half-mile trek through the winter woods to the banks of Flat Rock Creek for some “sneaky learning”. Scat was examined very carefully, live fish were gingerly held and released, and a whole new world opened up well beyond the length of any arms to their smartphones. 🌿



Outdoor Classroom students participating in stream monitoring project at Flat Rock Creek.



TULSA ORCHID SOCIETY PRESENTS

ORCHIDS: JEWELS OF THE JUNGLE

An American Orchid Society judged show and sale
Free public admission and daily orchid raffles

MAY 21, 10AM - 5PM | MAY 22, 10AM - 4PM

TULSA GARDEN CENTER

2435 S PEORIA

CLASSES AND EVENTS

▶ WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

Every Tuesday – Tulsa Herb Society member activities. 9:00 am–11:30 am (all weeks except 2nd week of month.)

Every Tuesday – Let's Talk Gardening!
12:00–1:30 pm

▶ THURSDAY, MARCH 3

Tulsa Area Daylily Society Meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ SATURDAY, MARCH 5

African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa, Sale.
9:00 am–3:00 pm

▶ MONDAY, MARCH 7

Tulsa Garden Club Members-only Meeting.
11:00 am

Green Country Bonsai Society monthly meeting. 7:00 pm

Oklahoma Native Plant Society meeting.
6:30 pm

▶ TUESDAY, MARCH 8

Green Country Water Garden Society, meeting. 6:30 pm

Hosta Connection meeting. 5:00 pm

▶ SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Tulsa Orchid Society meeting. 1:30 pm

Tulsa Rose Society meeting. 2:00 pm

▶ TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Tulsa Area Azalea Society meeting. 5:30 pm

Tulsa Audubon Society meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ THURSDAY, MARCH 17

Tulsa Area Iris Society meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ MONDAY, MARCH 21

Oklahoma Mycological Society meeting.
7:00 pm



African Violet Society meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ THURSDAY, MARCH 31

Green Country Sierra Club meeting. 6:00 pm



FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 9:00 am–4:00 pm
SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 9:00 am–3:00 pm
www.tulsagardencenter.org/Springfest

▶ MONDAY, APRIL 4

Green Country Bonsai Society meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Tulsa Area Daylily Society meeting. 7:00 pm

Tulsa Cacti & Succulent Society meeting.
7:00 pm

▶ FRIDAY, APRIL 8 – SATURDAY, APRIL 9

SpringFest at Woodward Park.

Friday 9:00 am–4:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am–4:00 pm

▶ SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Tulsa Orchid Society meeting. 1:30 pm

Tulsa Rose Society meeting. 2:00 pm

▶ TUESDAY, APRIL 12

Tulsa Herb Society meeting. 10:00 am

Green Country Water Garden Society, meeting. 6:30 pm

Hosta Connection meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ MONDAY, APRIL 18

Oklahoma Mycological Society meeting.
6:00 pm

African Violet Society meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Tulsa Area Azalea Society meeting. 5:30 pm

Tulsa Audubon Society meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Tulsa Area Iris Society. 7:00 pm

▶ SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Tulsa Area Iris Society, "Early" Show and Sale. 12:00 pm–4:00 pm

▶ THURSDAY, APRIL 28

Green Country Sierra Club meeting. 6:00 pm

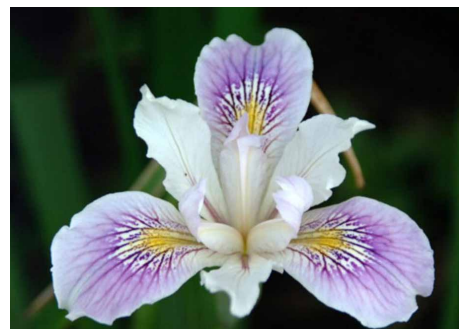
▶ FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Arbor Day Celebration



▶ SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Tulsa Area Iris Society, "Late" Show and Sale. 12:00 pm–4:00 pm



▶ MONDAY, MAY 2

Green Country Bonsai Society monthly meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ THURSDAY, MAY 5

Tulsa Area Daylily Society meeting. 7:00 pm

Tulsa Cacti & Succulent Society meeting.
7:00 pm

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The Tulsa Cacti and Succulent Society
is thrilled to be hosting a
Handbuilding Planter Workshop

with Kris Ostler from
Salt Prairie Ceramics!

The class will include step-by-step
instructions, all supplies, and a
choice of 2 glaze colors.

Thursday, March 3rd | 6:00PM | \$28/person



Join the Oklahoma Mycological Society on
Monday, March 21st at 7pm for a viewing of:
A NEW UNDERSTANDING: The Science of Psilocybin

**Following the film will be a discussion
with the following panelists:**

Estelle Levetin: PHD, Professor Emerita,
& President of OKMS

Ethan Miller: Co-founder of Earthwise
Mycology & Vice President of OKMS

Brittany Sharp-Browning: RN, Masters
student, & Conscious Cannabis Facilitator



CLASSES AND EVENTS *continued from page 17*

▶ SATURDAY, MAY 7

Tulsa Perennial Club, Plant Sale. 9:00 am–1:00 pm



Green Country Bonsai Society, Bonsai Show. 10:00 am–4:00 pm



Tulsa Rose Society, Rose Show. 12:00 pm–4:00 pm



▶ SUNDAY, MAY 8

Tulsa Orchid Society meeting. 1:30 pm

Tulsa Rose Society, Rose Show. 2:00 pm–4:00 pm

▶ TUESDAY, MAY 10

Tulsa Herb Society meeting. 10:00 am

Green Country Water Garden Society, meeting. 6:30 pm

Hosta Connection meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ SATURDAY, MAY 14

Tulsa Cacti & Succulent Society, Plant Sale. 9:00 am–3:00 pm



▶ SUNDAY, MAY 15

Tulsa Cacti & Succulent Society, Plant Sale. 9:00 am–3:00 pm

▶ MONDAY, MAY 16

Oklahoma Mycological Society meeting. 7:00 pm

African Violet Society meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ TUESDAY, MAY 17

Tulsa Area Azalea Society meeting. 5:30 pm

Tulsa Audubon Society meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ THURSDAY, MAY 21

Tulsa Area Iris Society. 7:00 pm

▶ SATURDAY, MAY 21

Tulsa Orchid Society, Show and Sale. 10:00 am–5:00 pm



▶ SUNDAY, MAY 22

Tulsa Orchid Society, Show and Sale. 10:00 am–4:00 pm

▶ THURSDAY, MAY 26

Green Country Sierra Club meeting. 6:00 pm



Tulsa Garden Center
at Woodward Park

APRIL AND MAY SPECIAL EVENTS

SpringFest at Woodward Park

Friday, April 8, 9:00 am–4:00 pm

Saturday, April 9, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

tulsagardencenter.org/Springfest.

Tulsa Area Iris Society, “Early” Show and Sale

Saturday, April 23, 12 pm–4:00 pm

Arbor Day Celebration

Friday, April 29

Tulsa Area Iris Society, “Late” Show and Sale

Saturday, April 30, 12 pm–4:00 pm

Tulsa Perennial Club, Plant Sale

Saturday, May 7, 9:00 am–1:00 pm

Green Country Bonsai Society, Bonsai Show

Saturday, May 7, 10:00 am–4:00 pm

Tulsa Rose Society, Rose Show

Saturday, May 7, 12:00 pm–4:00 pm

Sunday, May 8, 12:00 pm–4:00 pm

Tulsa Cacti & Succulent Society, Plant Sale

Saturday, May 14, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Tulsa Orchid Society, Show and Sale

Saturday, May 21, 10:00 am–5:00 pm

Sunday, May 22, 10:00 am–5:00 pm



Tulsa Garden Center
at Woodward Park

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Our mission is to serve as horticultural headquarters with diverse educational opportunities for our community, and to provide exceptional and unique guest experiences.

Bequest made through your estate either by will or trust can provide important benefits to both you and the Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park.

- Reduce or eliminate estate taxes
- Change beneficiaries at any time
- Designate any amount

We would love to discuss ways to make a gift through your estate plan with you or your estate planning professional.

Please contact Laura Chalus, CEO
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2435 S Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114
918-576-5155
lchalus@tulsagardencenter.org
www.tulsagardencenter.org

