



April 21-22, 2024

97th GCI Annual Convention

“It’s Our World to Garden”

April 21 - April 22, 2024

Crowne Plaza Convention Center
Springfield, IL

**President Diane Dawson and
The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. Board of Directors
Cordially invite you to the
97th GCI Annual Convention
on April 21 and 22, 2024**

Convention Co-chairs and Committee have planned an exciting
2 days in the capital city of Springfield.

*Network with other club members at dinner, reception, and lunch
Learn new info on trees in the keynote address and award workshop
Enjoy special field trips
Celebrate Earth Day
Stay at the beautiful convention hotel located off I-55*



Honored Guest, Donna Rouch – NGC First Vice President

Donna Rouch graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1983 from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Doctor of Pharmacy in 1993 from Creighton University. Donna has served as a club and state president, a district director, and a regional awards chair. For NGC, she has chaired the Membership, Website Search, Finance, and Internal Audit committees and served on the Nominating and Communication-Print committees. She currently serves as a liaison to the state presidents and region directors and serves as Membership and Leadership Committee chairman. Donna is a Landscape Design, Gardening and Environmental School consultant, and an accredited Flower Show judge. She has achieved the 4-star designation.



Keynote Speaker, Guy Sternberg – Monday 9:00-10:00 am

The Artistic Morphology of Trees - Find the inspiration of seeing trees with a broad new perspective. Topics include the subtleties of seasons, lighting, tree features at eye level and ground level, fragrance, wildlife interactions, how to experience the full measure of great trees, and view-shed management as related to tree placement. Learn how to use the artistic features of your existing trees more effectively in the landscape and how to plan for new trees.

Guy Sternberg is the co-founder of Starhill Forest Arboretum which has developed the most comprehensive research collection of oaks in the US with approximately 250 taxa and six globally endangered species. He is a founding member of the Illinois Native Plant Society and a past president of its central chapter. He is also a life member of the International Dendrology Society, the International Society of Arboriculture, the founding president and a life member of the International Oak Society, a 60-year life member of American Forests, and an active member of many other conservation and environmental organizations.



Floral Presenter, Kim Brannan – Monday 2:00-3:00 pm

Kim Brannan AAF, with over 20 years as a founder and floral shop owner of the award-winning Stems Florist in Florissant, MO and 29 years in the commercial interiors industry, has an amazing background in both floristry, interiors, and home gardening. She is the current regional presenter for Teleflora education due to her commitment to education for all customers, shops, and the industry. Kim has been involved with the Society of American Florists for over 10 years and the American Institute of Floral Design for over 15 years.



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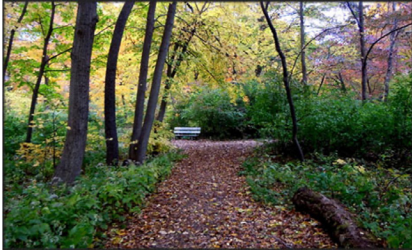
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Sunday Field Trip Options

To attend a field trip, you must be registered in the 1-day or 2-day convention package or attend as a guest of a registered attendee.



Lincoln Memorial Garden Nature Center – Sunday 1:00-3:30 pm

A living memorial to Abraham Lincoln, the garden represents the landscape he would have known growing up and living in the Midwest, containing plants native to the three states he lived in: Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. Designed by internationally known landscape architect Jens Jensen, the 100-acre site features six miles of trails, footbridges, a pond, eight stone council rings, and dozens of wooden benches inscribed with Lincoln quotes. New additions include two large troll sculptures created by high school students and the new Children’s Woodland Garden, opening Spring 2024.

LMG has been a special state project of GCI since its planning in early 1930s and is one of the contributors for the new Children’s Woodland Garden.



The Dana-Thomas House – Sunday 1:00-3:30 pm (20 maximum attendees)

Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1902 for Susan Lawrence Dana, a forward-thinking socialite living in Springfield, Illinois. The Prairie style home is the 72nd building designed by Wright and contains the largest collection of site-specific, original Wright art glass and furniture. Wright’s first blank check commission, the home has 35 rooms in the 12,000 square feet of living space which includes three main levels and 16 varying levels in all.



Illinois Governor’s Mansion and Garden – Sunday 1:00-3:30 pm (40 maximum attendees)

Nestled between Springfield’s brick-paved streets and the State Capitol, the Illinois Governor’s Mansion is the third-oldest state governor’s residence in the United States and the oldest gubernatorial residence in the Midwest. It has been home to Illinois Governors and their families since its construction in 1855. The property was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. In 2015, Vinci Hamp Architects was hired by former First Lady Diana Rauner to direct a \$15 million renovation funded by private donations—including extensive interior repairs and landscaping that earned the residence a LEED Silver designation from the US Green Building Council. Governor Pritzker continued these renovation efforts with an \$850,000 donation of his own in 2019.



Garden tour lead by Harry Lewis, horticulturist; home tour lead by a docent

Participants must provide a photo ID and be registered, no substitutes permitted.

Field Trips - Important Note

All field trips buses will leave the hotel at 1:00 pm by bus, boarding 15 minutes prior to departure. If driving directly to location, instructions will be emailed prior to tour day. Tour times are 1:30-3:00 pm. Return to hotel at 3:30 pm. Reservations are required. Must have photo ID for historic sites. The LMG tour includes walking on accessible paths, orientation in the Education Center, and preview of the new Children’s Woodland Garden. Dress for the outdoors.



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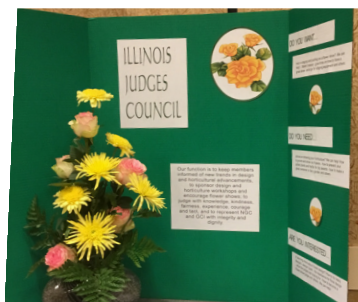
Preliminary Schedule of Events

Sunday, April 21

- 12:00-1:00 pm Convention Check-in
- 1:00-3:30 pm Field Trips - Register for only 1 (must have photo ID for historic sites)
Option 1: Lincoln Memorial Garden
Option 2: Dana-Thomas House (limited to 20)
Option 3: Governors Gardens/Mansion (limited to 40)
- 4:00-5:00 pm GCI Awards Workshop - Kim Atkins, Awards Chair, "Tips for Success" open to anyone interested
- 4:00-5:00 pm District Directors' Meeting - Hosted by Diane Greenwalt, First VP
- 4:30-5:30 pm Convention Check-in
- 5:30-6:30 pm Social Hour - You are invited to attend the social hour which includes music, charcuterie boards, and wine/cocktails available for purchase as a part of the 2-Day Package
- 6:45 pm-8:30 pm Convention Dinner Celebration - You are invited to attend this special dinner as part of the 2-Day Package

Monday, April 22

- 8:00 am-3:30 pm Committee Educational Exhibits and Garden-related Vendors - Located in the ballroom lobby
- 7:30-10:30 am Convention Check-in
- 7:30-8:45 am Breakfast Buffet
- 9:00-10:00 am Keynote Speaker - Guy Sternberg, "The Artistic Morphology of Trees"
- 10:30 am-12:00 noon GCI Annual Business Meeting, Installation, and Awards Presentation
- 12:30-1:30 pm Lunch
- 1:30-2:30 pm Floral Design Presentation - Kim Brannan
- 2:30-3:00 pm Raffle Baskets, Floral Raffle, and Silent Auction





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Fillable Registration Form

YOU MUST BE PREREGISTERED. There will be no registration available at the convention.

You will receive an email confirming your registration.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Club Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Food Allergies/ Dietary Restrictions _____

I am a new convention attendee. Yes No

2-Day Package	Sunday Field Trips (see below), Workshop, Reception, Dinner, Monday Meals, and Programs Sunday Reception and Dinner (Choose One): <input type="checkbox"/> Beef <input type="checkbox"/> Salmon <input type="checkbox"/> Veg. Monday Breakfast Buffet Monday Lunch (Choose One): <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Pork <input type="checkbox"/> Veg.	\$150	
1-Day Package	Monday Meals, Annual Meeting, and Programs Monday Breakfast Buffet Monday Lunch (Choose One): <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken <input type="checkbox"/> Pork <input type="checkbox"/> Veg.	\$75	
Field Trip Options	Field Trips - Register for only 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Option 1: Lincoln Memorial Garden <input type="checkbox"/> By bus - \$10 fee; must pre-register <input type="checkbox"/> By car - you drive to site <input type="checkbox"/> Option 2: Dana-Thomas House (limited to 20) <input type="checkbox"/> By bus - \$10 fee; must pre-register <input type="checkbox"/> By car - you drive to site <input type="checkbox"/> Option 3: Governors Gardens/Mansion (limited to 40) <input type="checkbox"/> By bus - \$10 fee; must pre-register <input type="checkbox"/> By car - you drive to site		
Field Trip Bus Fee	Sunday Field Trip bus transportation fee	\$10	
Guest Field Trip Fee	Guest Field Trip Fee	\$20	
LATE FEE	IF POSTMARKED AFTER APRIL 1, 2024	\$20	
TOTAL			

Please check all that apply for the 2023-2024 term:

- National Officer
- Regional Officer/Chairman
- State Officer/Chairman
- National Committee Member
- District Director
- NGC Life Member
- CR Life Member
- GCI Life Member
- LMG Life Member
- Club President
- Past State President
- Club Member
- Flower Show Judge
- Gardening Consultant
- Environmental Consultant
- Landscape Design Consultant
- Non-member Guest



Register by March 1 to be entered into a special drawing for 1 winner to receive a refund of the registration fee.

Make checks payable to **The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.**

Send form and payment to Registrar Anne McKean ~ 2242 McKean Rd., Jacksonville, IL 62650-6502 ~ 217-370-0299 ~ anne9258@aol.com



Questions? Contact Convention Co-chairs
Christine Ramirez-Campbell, cramicamp@gmail.com, 217-414-2043
Jim Schmidt, jasmid12@gmail.com, 309- 824-1113



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Convention and Hotel Information



Crowne Plaza Convention Hotel
3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy
located off I-55 & I-72, better known as historic Route 66

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Please keep in mind that reservations at the discounted group rate will close at 4:00 pm on MARCH 21, 2024. The Convention Committee has negotiated a rate of \$129.00 for a King room or Double/ Double. This special rate is good 2 days before and 2 days after convention dates if you wish to extend your stay. Follow instructions below to make reservations.

INTERNET

Click **here** to access our group's discounted rate. Enter the arrival and departure dates of your event, then click SEARCH. You will see the name of your group next to the discounted rate. Please do not adjust the adult/children count in the search field, as all rooms on the block are reserved for 1 adult (however, each room allows for up to 4 guests per room).

TELEPHONE

If you prefer, you may call IHG central reservations to make a booking on the group block. Dial the telephone number below and provide the Group Code or Block Name for the agent to locate the group booking.

IHG Central Reservations: 1-800-227-6963 Group Code and Block Name: G5I / Garden

We sincerely appreciate the support of our 2024 Business Sponsors

Click on the sponsors below to visit their websites.



**BARTLETT
TREE EXPERTS**

SCIENTIFIC TREE CARE SINCE 1907

Keynote Speaker



Floral Presentation



CROWNE PLAZA

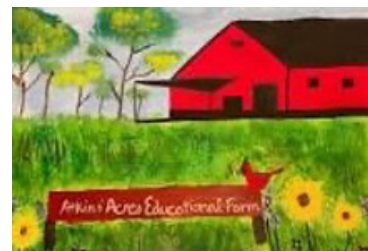
AN IHG HOTEL

In-kind Services



Swag Bags

Atkins' Acres Educational Farm



Morning Coffee Break