

The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.

2023 Summer Meeting

Hosted by District VII

Making our world a better place: healthy gardens, healthy gardeners

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Giant City Lodge, 460 Giant City Lodge Road, Makanda, IL

The meeting will take place at the Giant City Lodge located in District VII, in the heart of the Giant City State Park south of IL Rt 13 and south of Carbondale.

From Chicago, take I-57 to exit 54B to Carbondale.

The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. members and their spouses and non-member guests are encouraged to come a day or more early and take advantage of this opportunity to stay in one of the cabins. Be sure to stop at the Visitor's Center then take a drive through the scenic Giant City State Park.

If you come for the weekend before, there are numerous overnight accommodations, including campgrounds, the 34 cabins around the Giant City Lodge, area hotels, or make reservations for an Airbnb.

Visitor's Center Hours: 8 am - 3:30 pm Daily A highlight of the Giant City State Park, we encourage first-time and returning visitors to see the geology, plant, and animal displays, view the 10-minute film in the audio-visual room, buy something from the gift shop, and collect some brochures and maps.

See the Giant City State Park website We suggest taking a driving tour of the state park, climbing up the observation tower, going for a short or long walk on the nature trail, and enjoying a delicious meal at the Giant City Lodge Restaurant, open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Monday July 10 - Guided Tour Options - hosted by District VII garden club members

9:00 am - 11:00 am Tour of an established pollinator field and other gardens at the home of the GCI and District VII Bees, Birds, and Butterflies Chair Anne Parmley, 1123 Country Club Road, Metropolis, IL

It is worth the drive. This is 350 miles south of Chicago and a beautiful, one-hour drive southeast of Giant City State Park. Enjoy a guided tour full of beauty and inspiration. Anne is also the President of the Metropolis Garden Club, founding member of the Massac Nature Study Society, Friends of the Cache River Watershed Board Member, Illinois Butterfly Monitor at the Cache River Egret Slough, and Shawnee Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society Member. Anne will also be our morning speaker on Tuesday. **AnneOutdoors.info**

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Gather at the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center, 6987 Headquarters Road, Marion, IL

From IL Route 13 take IL 148 south. Watch for the signs. The visitor's center is on the lake, less than a mile from IL 148. (From IL 148, turn west onto Pigeon Creek Road. Then turn left onto Headquarters Road.) There is a \$2 fee per carload or bring your National Parks Pass to display. We will tour their new visitor center and the Pollinator Habitat Project native plantings. **southernmostillinois.com**

Friends of Crab Orchard President Rick Whitecotton will be our very informative guide.

3:15pm - 5:00 pm Gather at Rendleman Orchards Farm and Market, 9680 IL 127 N, Alto Pass, IL

Visit the sesquicentennial farm for tree ripened, hand-picked fruit, locally grown produce, jams, jellies, country gourmet specialty foods, and gift items. Wayne and Michelle Sirles are the 5th generation of Rendlemans to operate this farm, established in 1873. See the orchards and fields of flowers; take lots of photos; get a cold drink; and take home some peaches!

Betty Sirles, Anna-Jo Garden Club member, will be our host. **rendlemanorchards.com**

If you arrive the weekend or day before, please note that check-in time at the Giant City Lodge Registration Desk is any time after 3:00 pm.



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The 2023 summer meeting will offer educational speakers, delicious food, excellent exhibits, and vendors. A block of cabins closest to the Lodge has been reserved. To make reservations, go to giantcitylodge.com or call 618-457-4921. Southern Illinois hospitality at its best. Located in the Heart of Illinois' most scenic park, Giant City State Park.

Monday, July 10, 2023

Guided Tour Options – See previous page for details. Please register below.

Dinner Option – Giant City Lodge Restaurant, 6:00 pm. Please register below. Add \$30 below.

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

- 8:30 - 1:00 pm Registration, coffee bar, vendors, raffles, and exhibits.
- 9:30 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:45 - 10:45 am Program: **Butterflies and the Plants They Need** presented by Anne Parmley
BA and MA in Education, Michigan State University. GCI and District VII Bees, Birds, and Butterflies Chair. Master Naturalist. President of Metropolis Garden Club. See AnneOutdoors.info
- 10:45 - 11:00 am Break
- 11:00 - 12:00 pm GCI Business Meeting and Awards Presentations
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:45 pm Program: **100 Nutrition and Exercise Habits for Healthy Gardeners** by Sherie McCormick
Mother of four adult children, BS in Physical Education and AAS Degree, Physical Therapist Assistant, Southern Illinois University Health Coach Certification, American Council on Exercise.
- 1:45 - 2:00 pm Raffle winners announced

REGISTRATION FORM Deadline July 1, 2023

Tuesday coffee, continental breakfast, lunch, meeting, and programs	\$50.00 _____
Monday evening option dinner	\$30.00 _____
	TOTAL _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Club _____ District _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

I would like to be included in the following Monday tours:

9:00 - 11:00 am tour at Anne Parmley's

1:00 - 2:30 pm tour at Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge

3:15 - 5:00 pm tour at Rendleman Orchards

Please check all that apply:

- Club Member
- District Director
- Non-member Guest
- Club President
- GCI Board of Directors

Make checks payable to **The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.**
Send form and payment to: Sandi Dutton, 2603 Hickory Lane, Marion, IL 62959