

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF TGOA/MGCA JULY 18 – 21, 2017
THE SUMMER CONFERENCE FOR THE CENTRAL GREAT LAKES GARDENERS
WILL FOLLOW ON JULY 22

THE CLEVELAND AIRPORT MARRIOTT HOTEL
HOSTED BY THE GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON,
THE GARDENERS OF GREATER CLEVELAND AND
THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF YOUNGSTOWN, OH

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONVENTION, TOURS AND THE HOTEL

1. **Where is the hotel?** The Cleveland Airport Marriott (CAM) is located at 4277 W. 150th St. Cleveland, OH 44135. It is at the intersection of W. 150th St. and I-71. Cleveland Hopkins airport is about 5 miles away and there is a free hotel shuttle to and from the airport. The CAM is convenient to public transportation to downtown Cleveland – about 15 minutes away. The CAM phone: 216-252-5333.
2. **Why this hotel?** The CAM is the best hotel close to the airport and I-71. Members of the sponsoring clubs can get to it easily. It is a Marriott owned hotel – not a franchise. They have 368 newly refurbished guest rooms, 15,500 sq. ft. of meeting space, a bar and restaurant on site, and they are close to “Kamm’s Corners” restaurants and shops. They were a host hotel for the 2016 Republican National Convention. The food is excellent!
3. **When we get there, where do we register?** – On Tuesday, July 18, registration will be by the CAM front desk. You will also get a list of shops and restaurants and a local map. On Wednesday, July 19, registration will be by the meeting and dining rooms.
4. **What’s the convention program?** Here’s the first draft of the 2017 convention program. We will add to it and improve it as time goes on:
 - **Tuesday, July 18;** Executive Board Meeting in the President’s suite. Registration in the lobby by the front desk. Dinner on your own.
 - **Wednesday morning, July 19;** Registration by the Great Lakes Ballroom, 1st floor. E&I and National Directors Meetings held. **New Tours!** CAM Kitchen and Hotel Culinary Garden tours for those not in meetings. **New Event!** There will be a judged Horticulture Show for the first time at a National Convention. The Show Schedule will be issued later. Due to space concerns the number of entries per person will be limited.
 - **Wednesday Noon, July 19;** Lunch in the Great Lakes Ballroom. Welcome to the Convention and to Cleveland by John Schinker and Tom Davis. Door prizes.
 - **Wednesday Afternoon, July 19;** First and second set of seminars in the County Break out rooms. Sign up early for the best choice!
 - **Wednesday Evening, July 19;** Dinner in the Great Lakes Ballroom. Photo Contest and Horticulture Show winners announced. Door prizes.
 - **Thursday, July 20;** Tour Day! We will see some of the main features of Cleveland, visit University Circle, see the Cleveland Botanical Garden (save \$11 with your AHS or reciprocal membership card with your registration), stop at the Rockefeller (yes, that Rockefeller) Greenhouse. There will be a box lunch. Tour Lakeview Cemetery and hold a memorial service in the beautiful Wade Chapel with a huge Tiffany Window, see

President Garfield's tomb, see famous Clevelanders' graves (Rockefeller, Elliot Ness, Roy Chapman, Marcus Hanna, Charles Brush and Carl Stokes), and the cemetery's outstanding horticulture and arboriculture collection. Then we're on to Eton Square for wonderful horticulture displays, great shopping (everything from Tiffany's to Trader Joe's) and tasty snack options. Dinner and door prizes back at the hotel.

- **Friday, July 21;** The general membership meeting will be chaired by John Schinker. There will be one set of seminars that morning. Sign up early for the best choice! After lunch and door prizes, there will be two sets of seminars in the afternoon. Sign up early for the best choice!
 - **Friday afternoon;** There will be free time for some, and members of the Central Great Lakes Gardeners region will hold their annual meeting. Guests are welcome.
 - **Friday evening;** There will be a president's reception with a cash bar and passed hors d'oeuvres before the banquet. The dinner choices will be Grilled Chicken Breast with tomato jam OR Sirloin Medallions. Awards, installation of officers and an after-dinner speaker are planned.
 - **Saturday, July 22;** Tour day for the Central Great Lakes Gardeners. It will be completely different route from the Thursday tour. Guests are welcome, but sign up early to get a place in the 56 passenger bus.
5. **What about vegetarians?** There will be vegetarian option at all the meals.
 6. **Will there be vendors?** We are working on having vendors with garden related products attractively priced.
 7. **Will there be a hospitality suite?** Yes, it will be located close to the meeting and seminar rooms.
 8. **What about breakfast?** The least expensive breakfast package from the hotel would have added \$51 to the cost of the convention. The planning group decided to hold the price down and ask people to supply their own breakfast. There is a minifridge and coffee maker in every room. There is a restaurant in the lobby of the hotel. There is a Denny's restaurant right next door that gives a 10% discount to hotel guests. There are restaurant and fast food options 5 minutes away. We hope everyone understands this decision to keep the convention costs down.
 9. **What about arriving early or staying over to see places in Cleveland?** The hotel will give you the convention rate of \$94/night for your whole stay. That includes free Wi-Fi and parking garage access. Just identify yourself as a convention guest when you make your reservation.
 10. **What to see in Cleveland?** The Cleveland Indians will be playing the Blue Jays July 21 – 23. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is a top attraction. The Cleveland Art Museum is open and FREE every day except Monday. There are outstanding shopping opportunities at Crocker Park 18 minutes from the hotel. We will have local experts to direct you to any thing you'd like to see!
 11. **When should I register?** The sooner you register, the lower the cost! You will also get first choice on seminars. It would be a great help to the committee if you sent your reservation in before March 1!
 12. **Will there be a "day rate" for the convention?** Yes, but it will save you money to sign up for the whole three days. Besides, there will be a lot going on that you don't want to miss!