

2026 Convention Schedule of Activities (updated)

“Chicagoland Celebrates 75 Years of The Gesneriad Society”

Sunday, June 28

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Convention Registration / Information
8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Board Bus for Trip
8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Trip to Garfield Park Conservatory and Downtown Chicago
5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Convention Registration / Information

Monday, June 29

7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. Convention Registration / Information / Entry Forms Accepted
8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Board Bus for trip
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Visit Chicago Botanic Garden (plus optional post-trip to Nursery)
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting (Part I)
5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Convention Registration / Information / Entry Forms Accepted
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Meet-the-Board Social with Cash Bar
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Welcome Dinner
8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Anniversary Presentations: History

Tuesday, June 30

7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. Convention Registration / Information / Entry Forms Accepted
7:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. Board Bus for trip
8:30 a.m. - Noon Trip to Hausermann Orchids and Guided Bus Tour of Morton Arboretum
8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Judges Training (students only)
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lite Lunch
1:45 p.m. Deadline for Submitting Flower Show Entry Forms
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Judges Training (separate sessions: student/senior or workshop)
3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Judges Training and Practice Judging (combined group)
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Moderated Discussion
5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Judges Interest Group Meeting
5:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Convention Registration / Information
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Dinner Honoring Members/Chapters
7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Program #1 “A Journey through Time: The Past, Present, and Future of the Genus *Primulina*” (Wen Fang, China)
8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Program #2 Panel Discussion “Growing Primulinas” (Linda Hall, Jim Vlasic, Vicki Ferguson, Josh Higgins)

Wednesday, July 1

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Convention Registration / Information
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Flower Show Entries
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Moderated Discussion
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Designers Additional Entry Time in Showroom
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Lite Lunch
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Anniversary Presentations: Present-Day
2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Auction Donations Accepted
4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. GHA Meeting with Presentation by Martin Steel-Brown (New Zealand)
5:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Convention Registration / Information
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Dinner and Annual Membership Meeting
8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Early Plant Sales (entry by registration number)
8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Plant Sales for Registrants only
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Designers Extra Time in Flower Show Room

Thursday, July 2

6:30 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.	Flower Show Late Entries (with permission)
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast (and judging instructions)
8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Flower Show Judging
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Convention Registration / Information
9:00 a.m. - Noon	Plant Sales Open for Registrants
9:00 a.m. - Noon	Silent Auction Bidding Open for Registrants
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Moderated Discussion
Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lite Lunch
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Silent Auction Bidding Open for Registrants
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Plant Sales Open for Registrants
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Special Presentation by Andrew Willoughby
3:00 p.m.	Silent Auction Closes
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Flower Show Open for Registrants
4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Program #3A “ <i>Petrocosmea</i> : Hidden Treasures of China’s Karst Landscapes” (Fu Jia Xin, China)
4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Program #3B “ <i>Petrocosmea</i> – The Must Have Plant” (Beverley Williams, Canada)
5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Convention Registration / Information
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Social Hour with Cash Bar
6:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.	Flower Show Awards Dinner
8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.	Flower Show Open for Registrants

Friday, July 3

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Photographers Only in Flower Show Room
8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Flower Show Judges Review (only for this year’s flower show judges and clerks)
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Program #4 “Neotropical Gesneriaceae: Three Decades of Discovery and Change” (John L. Clark, Florida)
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Flower Show Open to the Public
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Plant Sales Open to the Public
11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Convention Registration / Sign-ups for Phyto Appointments
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Lite Lunch
1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting (Part II)
1:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Judges Tests
3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Conservation Meeting and Program (open to all)
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Mini-Presentations by Student Grant Recipients
5:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Convention Registration / Information
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Social Hour with Cash Bar
6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.	Anniversary Dinner
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Anniversary Presentations: Future

Saturday, July 4

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	First-Time Convention Registrants Flower Show Review
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Flower Show Open to the Public
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Plant Sales Open to the Public
9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Convention Registration / Information
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Mini-Presentations: Gesneriad Challenges (Gary Makita, Julie Mavity-Hudson, Michael Riley, Terri Vicenzi)
11:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch and Live Auction
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Auction Settlement (live and silent)
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Phyto Inspections (by appointment)
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Flower Show and Plant Sales Breakdown
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Anniversary Party/Social with Lite Hors D’oeuvres and Cash Bar
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Fireworks Viewing and Socializing