

Top 10 Reasons to attend the 2007 National Convention

By Sylvia Emerson, President of Rockford Area Gardeners

Have you considered coming to the 2007 National Convention of TGOA-MGCA during July 12, 13 and 14, 2007 in Rockford, Illinois? Here's a top ten list for attending this convention.

10. View outstanding photos during the **national photography awards** presentation.
9. Connect with **long-term gardening friends** and make new ones.
8. Travel along the scenic Rock River between Rockford and Dixon, Illinois, and see the Black Hawk statue and where **John Deere made his historic plow in Grand Detour, Illinois.**
7. Participate in **garden and history tours in Dixon**, Illinois (<http://www.dixonil.com/>)
6. Great breakout sessions on various topics including a **session by Rosarians Jean and Mary Ewaldz.**
5. **Lunch on the Calvin Park Boulevard** and introduction to a unique style of community project.
4. See Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden with the **most diverse collection of woody trees and shrubs in the United States.** (<http://www.klehm.org>)
3. **Tour La Paloma Gardens**, a barrier free environment, **showcasing a formal vegetable garden**, Swan Pond, Italian Garden, a long stair case, and enormous hanging baskets. (<http://www.lapalomagardens.com/>)
2. Visit the **top Japanese garden in the country** – Anderson Japanese Gardens. (<http://www.andersongardens.org/>)
1. **Hear Roy Klehm speak at the banquet.** He is part of a multigenerational horticulture family, owner of Song Sparrow and Beaver Creek Nursery) and **noted peony hybridizer** whose Pink Hawaiian Coral peony received the American Peony Society gold medal award for outstanding performance. (http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/gl_plants_perennials/article/0,1785,HGTV_3610_1870818,00.html)

In addition, you have access to great accommodations at the Clock Tower. You can travel to Rockford via O'Hare Airport in Chicago and transfer to a convenient bus to Rockford or fly direct to the Rockford-Chicago International Airport. If you are traveling by car, Rockford is at the crossroads of interstate highways 90 and 39. Registration for the convention is \$185 dollars.

Information about what you can see and do within easy travel distance, one to two hours, of Rockford either before or after the convention is on the 2007 National Convention page.

Hope to see you at the convention!

Sylvia Emerson

Member of the steering committee for the 2007 National Convention

President of Rockford Area Gardeners, which is just one of the clubs making up the Illinois/Wisconsin region hosting the convention.