

PROGRAM SCHEDULE DAY 1

Monday, September 28, 2026

- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:30 am Welcome & Announcements
- 8:45 am Allied Topic, "Correctly Writing the Horticulture Division"
- 9:45 am Break
- 10:00 am Horticulture, "Heuchera & Succulents"
- 12:00 am Break & Lunch
- 12:45 am Horticulture Cont., Practice Point Scoring
- 2:45 pm Break
- 3:15 pm Horticulture Point Scoring Exam
- 5:15 pm Exam Time Ends

PROGRAM SCHEDULE DAY 2

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:30 am Welcome & Announcements
- 8:45 am Allied Topic, "Design Techniques"
- 9:45 am Break
- 10:00 am Design "Armature & Low-Profile"
- 12:00 am Break & Lunch
- 12:45 am Design Cont., Practice Point Scoring
- 2:45 pm Break
- 3:15 pm Design Point Scoring Exam
- 5:15 pm Exam Time Ends

ALL LECTURES, INCLUDING ALLIED TOPICS MUST BE ATTENDED IN FULL TO RECEIVE CREDIT.

Extra: Sunday 4:30 pm: Casual Welcome Dinner

Questions? Need Help? Contact Debbie C. Zonca, Symposium Chair at debczonca@gmail.com or 847-275-8039.

HOTEL INFORMATION (Symposium Location)

Please make reservations directly with the hotel. A block of rooms is set aside at the Irish Cottage under Garden Clubs of Illinois. Use this link:

https://www.bookonthenet.net/east/premium/eresmain.aspx?id=z0Rz7qK1foDArlctCOj0dDj5wxYT7JgGCB8k0ScQmJs%3d&arrival_date=2026-09-27&stay_nights=5&promo_code=GCI26

The Irish Cottage Inn & Suites 815-776-0707
www.theirishcottage.com ENDS: 8/26/26
Rate: \$124 plus \$25 resort fee + taxes
(includes full breakfast + other amenities)

GALENA HOTELS BOOK QUICK – DON'T DELAY!

Galena has many options for accommodation including hotels, rentals, RV parks & more. See Visit Galena <https://www.visitgalena.org> or VRBO/ABNB for a full listing. Most are within a 10 minute drive.

Closest to Symposium/Irish Cottage:

Best Western Galena Inn & Suites, Grant Hills Motel, DeSoto House (in center of downtown, historic site).

Airport Information:

Chicago O'Hare & Midway (apprx 2.5-3 hrs away)
Rockford IL, Cedar Rapids IA, Madison WI are secondary airports that are within a 2 hour drive.

Directions to Galena: located in the NW corner of Illinois, US Highway 20. The Irish Cottage Inn is within a 6-hour drive of parts of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Michigan and Indiana.

Garden Clubs of Illinois

"Get The Lead Out"

Flower Show Symposium

September 28-29, 2026



Pres. Ulvsses S. Grant Home.

Located in the rolling hills of the Illinois Driftless Region, Galena was founded in 1826 as a lead mining center that rivaled Chicago in size. Today Galena opens its floodgates (literally) to visitors showcasing numerous historical sites, charming shops along Main Street and unique natural spots. There's never a shortage of something to see or experience.

Location

The Irish Cottage Inn & Suites
9853 US Hwy 20, Galena IL 61036

Sponsored by

**Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. and
Judges Council of Illinois**



GCI SYPOSIUM REGISTRATION

September 28-29, 2026

Please Print:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

Judging Level (check one): Student _____

Accredited _____ Life _____ Master _____

FULL 2 DAY COURSE (NO credit) \$170.00

(all topics, lectures, lunches: no testing)

FULL 2 DAY COURSE (Credit/Audit) \$180.00

(all topics, lectures, lunches & testing)

ONE DAY – CIRCLE ONE \$80.00

Tuesday OR Wednesday

(all topics, lectures, lunches: no testing)

Paper Copies of Practice Sheets: \$5.00

Late Fee: add \$25 late fee after 9/1/2026

Total: _____

Send Registration & Check Made Out To:

‘Garden Clubs of Illinois’

Pam Foster, 31 Acadia Drive

South Barrington, IL 60010

RE: Symposium

DEADLINE: Must be postmarked 9/1 & received
by 9/6 to avoid late fee. No refunds after
September 15, 2026.

Lunch Choice: Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

Food Allergies _____

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Lectures are open to all NGC Accredited Judges and other interested parties. Illinois Judges taking this Symposium for credit must mail the ‘Renewal of Judges in Good Standing Application’ to IL Judges Credentials Chairman, Carol Yee at least 4 weeks prior to Symposium (due Aug. 26th).

OUT OF STATE JUDGES

Please contact your state Judges’ Credentials Chairman at least 6 weeks prior to the symposium to verify your eligibility to take the Symposium for credit. Request that she/he notify Carol Yee of your eligibility with required NGC forms. Forms due by Aug. 26th.

Carol Yee, Illinois Credentials Chairman

mscyee@hotmail.com 708-927-9937

5224 Grand Ave., Western Springs IL 60558

Garden Clubs of Illinois President

Diane Greenewalt

GCI Judges Council Chairman

Carol Yee

GCI Symposium Chairman

Debbie C. Zonca

debczonca@gmail.com

GCI Symposium Coordinator

Anita Bierbaum

Symposium Registrar

Pam Foster

pam.foster28@gmail.com

Judges must bring The Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 (Revised July 2026, free online version avail. at www.gardenclub.org), study sheets (or pre-ordered on Registration form). If you take the exam: 2 pencils, a clipboard. A gum eraser is recommended.

2026 Symposium Instructors

Horticulture Instructor: David Robson

David Robson is a retired horticulture and pesticide safety specialist with the University of Illinois. He was the president of the Springfield Civic Garden Club from 1995-1997, after serving on the board of directors for many years. He currently is the Co-Treasurer of the club. David has served 10 years (2 different terms) as the Garden Clubs of Illinois Awards Chairman. He has been a National Garden Club Master Judge since 1992, and a Flower Show School and Symposium instructor since 2008. He currently serves on the NGC Board of Directors as Vice Chair of the Flower Shows and Flower Show School Committee, as well as the Horticulture Instructors and Credentials Chair, he is an NGC PH&E Trustee.

Design Instructor: Shirley Tetreault

Shirley began her association with NGC in 1997 when she ventured into a Flower Show School class. Today Shirley is part of the NGC Flower Shows & Flower Shows School Committee, Judges’ Council Liaison 2025-27. She travels the country providing FS Design and Procedure programs for NGC accredited judges in Symposium. Shirley has been associated with a wide variety of garden related organizations such as the Master Gardeners, serving two terms as president of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

Symposium outlines & information will be emailed to participants 4 weeks prior to September 27th.