Wrapping Up Plans and Planting the Gardens

Oh, so close and yet so far away! The conference is almost full. There are only a dozen spots left! If you haven’t already done so, register soon. Please review activities in which you can participate: pre-conference tour, trade show, silent auction, mini seminars and tech fair, trade show, country club dining, garden tours, town tour, mini-seminars, famed speakers Greg Grant, Howard Garrett, and Neil Sperry plus enjoying Texarkana sights and sounds in addition to enjoying the spring flowers and weather. The Hilton Garden Inn is throwing a preconference party/reception Wednesday, May 28, for registered guests. (There are several rooms available at the Hilton on the 28th.) The party includes drink specials and the hotel’s famous free snacks and hors d’oeuvres. What could be more fun than a party?

Tour Texarkana: Thursday, May 29, 3:00 - 5:45 P.M.

Buses will transport conference attendees to the Arts and Historic District in downtown Texarkana. Along the way, the buses will traverse Spring Lake Park, one of the two largest parks in town. Texarkana has a total of eleven parks covering 500 acres, with nineteen baseball and softball fields, a soccer complex, nine pavilions, a disc golf course, and four lakes. The Philip McDougal Trail is a new addition to Spring Lake Park; it covers 1.75 miles and is open to walkers, joggers, and bicycles. Walking the trail, which includes a section around the lake, is a favorite pastime of Texarkana residents. Kidtopia, in the downtown area, is a park for kids of all ages.

The tour bus will pass by the childhood home of Ross Perot, native son and financier of many beneficial causes. One recipient is the Boy Scout Center, located adjacent to Spring Lake Park. Mr. Perot also donated to the renovation of the Sanger Theater in 1982, now known as the Perot Theater.

State Line Avenue is the major traffic artery between Texas and Arkansas. The buses will travel south on State Line Avenue to arrive at the only U.S. Federal Courthouse and Post Office located in two states. The buses will stop and allow those wishing to do so to take photos with one foot in Texas and one foot in Arkansas.

Upon arrival downtown, buses will operate on a continuous loop to the following sites: Perot Theater, Scott Joplin Mural, Lindsey Railroad Museum, Regional History Museum, Ace of Clubs House, Regional Art Center, Discovery Place, Ahern House, Sue and Bobby Dowd Pocket Park, Silvermoon Theater, and Texarkana Auto Museum. If you would like to return to any of the Historic District sites, most of them are open on Saturday. Discovery Place features the Musical Tesla Coils and performances are at 11
a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Ace of Clubs House tours are at 10:15 a.m., 11:45 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. Lindsey Railroad Museum opens from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Texarkana Auto Museum is open Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sun. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**Master Gardeners Dining**

Buses begin leaving downtown at 5:45 p.m. to transport Master Gardeners to the Texarkana Country Club, built in 1914, and located in the south part of Texarkana, AR. A light dinner will be served from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Entertainment includes live music and a putting contest. Master Gardeners may tour (on their own) the gardens surrounding the clubhouse which feature landscaping by Little Rock’s very own Chris Olsen. Buses depart the Country Club beginning at 7 p.m. to return Master Gardeners to the Convention Center. The last bus will leave the Country Club at 9 p.m.

**Silent Auction: Thursday, May 29 from 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM**

Don’t forget to visit the Silent Auction at the Convention Center. Bidding begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 7 p.m. Items must be paid for and picked up between 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Thursday, May 29. Silent Auction items are donated by each Master Gardener association. County 76 operates the auction, with proceeds defraying MG Leadership (PNG) training costs.

![Master Gardeners](Photo by Sheila Keever)

**The 2014 State Master Gardener Conference Steering Committee at the Texarkana Country Club**

Left to right: Andrea Thomas, Martha Bean, Tommie Ayers, Sue Ellen Letterman, Kathy Boyles, John Turner, Agent, Peggy Burson, Pam Williamson, Janet Carson, Judith White, Paula Griffith, Teresa Slack, and Julie Treat.

*(Photo by Sheila Keever)*

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