



Please Join us for GCI's 96th Annual Convention "My Garden... My Oasis" April 16-17, 2023



Carol Yee, Central Region Director – Honored Guest

A native of Maui, Carol has served in many capacities for The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. including District II Director, Treasurer, Secretary, 3rd Vice President, 1st Vice President and State President (2013-2015). She has also co-chaired Gardening and Environmental Schools with close friends Anne Gindorf and Grace Leonard. As Central Region Director, she serves on the Executive Committee and on the Scholarship Committee, which evaluates applicants which State forwards to NGC. Additionally, she has attended several state conventions this past year.



Hands-on Garden Water Element with Krina Kronen – Sunday 2:30-4:00 pm

GCI's own florist and artist Krina Kronen will lead participants through the creation of two aviary pieces. The first is a pinecone bird feeder that can be taken back to our clubs as a garden therapy project for our clients. The second is the creation of a terra cotta mosaic water element which will help us maintain a water supply in our gardens for birds over the winter.



Afternoon Bird Walk at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve – Sunday 2:30-4:00 pm

Donna Kubik of the DuPage Birding Club will lead a bird walk and teach about local and migratory birds at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve located about four miles from the Chicago Marriott Naperville hotel. Binoculars will be provided along with instruction on how to effectively use them to get up close and personal with birds, revealing their intricate features and opening a window on their lives. (20 maximum attendees)



Birds in the Garden: Creating a Bird Oasis with Pam Karlson – Monday 9:00 am

This program features Pam Karlson's photos from her Chicago garden habitat she created, illustrating how it is possible to attract over 100 bird species. Tips include landscape enhancements, practices, and plant selection, with an emphasis on native plants. Pam's garden habitat was included in Doug Tallamy's "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard". A professional gardener and garden designer through the Chicago Botanic Garden, she owns Waxwing Studios, Inc. with her artist husband, specializing in art and gardening.



Floral Designer Eileen Looby Weber of Lake Forest Flowers – Monday at 1:30 pm

Eileen Weber is a second-generation florist and serves as co-owner of Lake Forest Flowers handling day-to-day operations, special events, and floral education. After growing up in the industry, Eileen pursued a Bachelor of Science at Purdue University in Horticultural Production and Marketing. She was inducted into the American Academy of Floriculture in 2014 and is a member of the Society of American Florists. She is a Next Gen X Conference Leader and a New Varieties' judge. She is a busy floral design instructor and presenter throughout the North Shore.

The 2023 Convention Committee sincerely thanks **Ball Horticultural Company** and **Bartlett Tree Experts** for their Platinum Sponsorship and **SavATree** for their Bronze Sponsorship of The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. 2023 State Convention.

