



**Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc.  
87th Convention**

*“Blooming and Growing in the Upstate”  
April 27-29, 2017*

**The Westin Poinsett Greenville**

120 South Main Street  
864-421-9700

*Limited Hotel Convention Rates*

*Register online February 11 – April 13  
\$25 late fee for registrations received after April 13*

**Thursday, April 27**  
Board Meeting ♦ VPs Reception

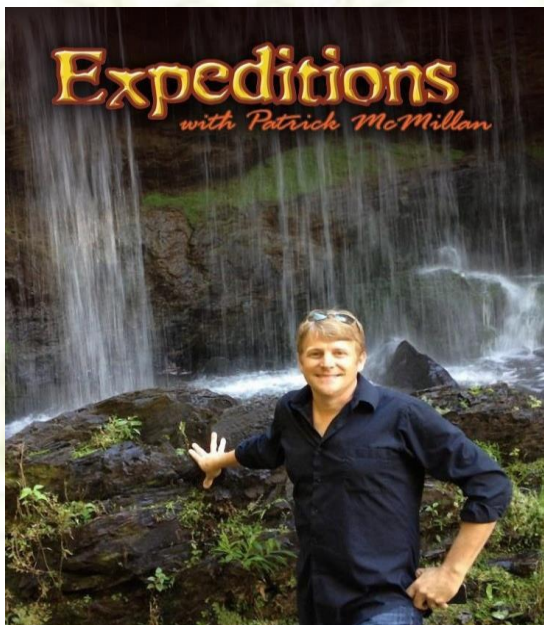
**Friday, April 28**  
Luncheon Design Program by Terry Ritchen  
Guided Walking Tour on Main Street

**Banquet Keynote Speaker Patrick McMillan, Director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden**

**Saturday, April 29**  
Brunch ♦ Memorial Service ♦ Awards Presentation ♦ Installation of Officers  
Honored Guest and Speaker Sandra Robinson, President of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

**[gcscstatemeeting.com](http://gcscstatemeeting.com)**

## CONVENTION SPEAKERS



**Patrick McMillan**, host, co-creator, and writer of the popular Emmy-award winning ETV nature program *Expeditions with Patrick McMillan*, will be our keynote speaker. For over 25 years, he has worked as a professional naturalist, biologist and educator.

A Glenn and Heather Hilliard Professor of Environmental Sustainability at Clemson University, Patrick is also a faculty member in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation, and the Director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden, the Bob Campbell Geology Museum and the Clemson Experimental Forest.

Patrick received his B.S. in Biology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Clemson University. He has twice been honored with the distinction of faculty excellence at Clemson and was the inaugural recipient of the Rowland P. Alston Sr. Award for Communication. In 2005, he was awarded the distinctions of Conservation Partner of the Year by the Partnership for the Blue Ridge, as well as Outstanding Classified Employee by Clemson University. He is a contributor to the book *Life at the Water's Edge*, which won the 2005 Renewable Natural Resources Foundations Outstanding Achievement Award and has been selected to receive one of ten South Carolina Notable State Document Awards for 2005.

In addition to fulfilling his teaching, outreach and curatorial duties, he has hosted a birding program on SCETV Radio's "Your Day". An expert speaker, he is in demand throughout the Southeast and the nation where he routinely gives more than 100 public presentations annually, including the prestigious Calhoun Lecture in January of 2009, the first Clemson faculty member invited to present this address. He has given dozens of departmental seminars at universities throughout the region and is a friend of garden clubs, giving numerous presentations each year. Patrick is also an active member of several organizations, including the South Carolina Association of Naturalists, the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society, the South Carolina Native Plant Society and the South Carolina Entomological Society.



**Sandra H. Robinson**, better known as Sandy, is the 44th President of National Garden Clubs, and lives in London, Kentucky with Bill, her husband of forty-two years. She is a mother of three daughters, and grandmother to three granddaughters and four grandsons.

Sandy is active at the state, regional and national levels of NGC. She is a Charter Member of the Lady Slipper's Garden Club, formed in 1985 and believes opportunities for personal growth are limitless in garden clubs if you are willing to accept leadership roles. She often says, "Garden Club has given me more than I can ever give back".

She is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a B.A. in Interior Design and believes in giving back. Her long history with NGC includes:

- Member since 1985
- First Vice President 2013-2015
- Second Vice President 2011-2013
- Third Vice President 2009-2011
- State President: Garden Club of Kentucky 2001-2003

She is a Four Star Member as a Master Landscape Design and Gardening Consultant, Accredited Flower Show Judge and Environmental Consultant.

Sandy is a lifelong volunteer which has included serving on the school board, athletic boosters, numerous civic organizations, alumni organization, local club activities and garden club boards. She is actively involved in her church and loves rug hooking, traveling, reading, gardening, and spending time with family and friends.

## **The Westin Poinsett – A Tradition Rich in History**



The Westin Poinsett is located in the heart of Greenville just steps from the shopping, restaurants, corporate headquarters, and attractions of the vibrant downtown.



The hotel is near the Peace Center for the Performing Arts, Greenville Symphony, Children's Museum of the Upstate, Falls Park on the Reedy River, Greenville Zoo, and the Bon Secours Wellness Center.

## The Westin Poinsett – A Tradition Rich in History



This hotel is Greenville's only historic four-diamond hotel, and offers guests the modern amenities they desire with quality service and warm hospitality. The soaring ceilings, exquisite ballrooms, and rich marble moldings display its 1920s historic detail and ambiance. Originally, the hotel stood on South Main Street as the Mansion House, but after it was demolished in 1924, it was rebuilt and came to be known as one of the most beautifully furnished hotels in the country. It quickly earned its reputation as "Carolina's finest" and drew notables such as Amelia Earhart, Cornelius Vanderbilt, and Robert Kennedy.



The hotel's Spoonbread Restaurant, a local favorite, serves classic American cuisine in a relaxed, yet elegant setting. Spoonbread is open every day for breakfast and lunch as well as room service. Joel's Java coffee shop offers coffee, tea, and lighter fare. The Piano Bar and Lounge entertains guests with nightly live music, and serves a complete selection of spirits, handcrafted cocktails, and local beer on tap.

## HOTELS

### **Convention Hotel**

**The Westin Poinsett Greenville** – 120 South Main Street, Greenville, SC 29601

864-421-9700 westinpoinsettgreenville.com

*For GCSC Members only \$195.00 while Rooms last – ask for GCSC Convention Rate*

### **Downtown Greenville Hotels**

GCSC does not have a rate arrangement with these hotels; however, most hotels have special rates if you ask for them. The list below is arranged in the order of distance from our Convention Hotel.

#### **0.16 Miles**

**Courtyard Marriot Greenville Downtown** – 50 W. Broad St., Greenville, SC 29601

864-451-5700

#### **0.20 Miles**

**Aloft Greenville Downtown** – 5 N. Laurens St., Greenville, SC 29601

864-297-6100      Reservations: 866-716-8142

#### **0.33 Miles**

**Hyatt Regency Greenville** – 220 N. Main St., Greenville, SC 29601

864-235-1234

#### **1.40 Miles**

**Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Greenville Downtown** – 171 River Place, Greenville, SC 29601

864-271-8700      Reservations: 800-426-7866

#### **1.41 Miles**

**Home2 Suites by Hilton Greenville Downtown** – 350 N. Main St., Greenville, SC 29601

864-626-3700

#### **1.42 Miles**

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Greenville Downtown Riverplace** – 250 Riverplace, Greenville, SC 29601

864-263-4800

Please do not mail a check! Only online registrations will be accepted!!

# Garden Club of South Carolina 87th Convention

*“Blooming and Growing in the Upstate”*

*April 27-29, 2017*

**The Westin Poinsett Greenville**

*Register online February 11 – April 13*

*For Assistance Contact Registrar Dee LeMay*

*864-328-9723 dlemay98@aol.com*

Information you will need to register on line:

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Also required will be checking boxes for all designations that currently apply:

GCSC President  GCSC Board Member  Club President  GCSC Life Member  
 GCSC Former Pres.  SAR Board Member  Club Member  SAR Life Member  
 District Director  NGC Board Member  First Convention  NGC Life Member  
 Council President  Club Delegate  Guest

**Fees**

All Registration Fees are included

Exception – Late Fee for Registration after April 13 ..... \$25.00

**Meals and Special Events**

Vice Presidents’ Reception – April 27 ..... No Charge

Opening Luncheon – April 28 ..... \$55.00

Awards Banquet – April 28 ..... \$85.00

Awards Brunch – April 29 ..... \$60.00

Dietary restrictions due to allergies or medical reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

gcsstatemeeting.com