

Gesneriads Gather in the Garden State

The 2025 Convention Team is looking forward to our gathering at The Gesneriad Society's 68th Annual Convention to celebrate our favorite plants. Mark your calendars for **June 29 to July 5, 2025**, and join us at the Sheraton Parsippany Hotel in north-central New Jersey.

We will gather for our **third "recent" convention in New Jersey**: the first in 1988 in New Brunswick; the second in 2002 in Morristown; and now in 2025 in Parsippany. This part of New Jersey is familiar to many of our Gesneriad Society members who have gathered nearby at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum where the local gesneriad chapter members have held gesneriad shows and sales since the late 1970s. Who could forget the Flamingo-Fests?

The convention program will give us many opportunities to gather and share our passion for gesneriads. Exhibitors from across the continent will be entering a **large variety of plants and other entries in the flower show**. We shall also have a **large selection of plants for sale** from commercial and individual growers offering plants, tubers, rhizomes, and cuttings that cannot be found elsewhere. You're sure to find many new additions for your collection. Silent and live auctions also offer unique opportunities for acquiring rare treasures. We shall have **lectures, moderated discussions, and panels of gesneriad growers** to share their

experiences. There are programs to interest all. There will be a **judging school** for new and experienced judges to improve their knowledge of gesneriads. Numerous **volunteer opportunities** abound to help all contribute to our Society, and this is a great way to meet and make new friends!

Register ASAP! Early entry to plant sales on Wednesday night from 8-8:30pm is for convention registrants only and is based on your registration number. Plant sales will be open to the public on Friday and Saturday, but the best selection is available for convention registrants earlier.

If you have never been to a Gesneriad Society Convention before, we invite you to **join us in New Jersey!** Bring a wish list of plants, your plant questions, your auction donations, a show entry or several – and be prepared to come away with new friends, your questions answered, and new additions to your plant collection!

Sheraton Parsippany Hotel

199 Smith Road, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Our castle-themed hotel is in a park-like setting with a walking path around a lake. The smoke-free hotel has an indoor and an outdoor seasonal pool, business center, fitness center, and spa. Our contracted guest rooms have mini-refrigerators and complimentary WiFi. Parking at the hotel is complimentary for guests and visitors.

Our convention hotel is located about 24 miles from Newark Liberty Airport. The hotel currently has no airport shuttle service, but other transportation options will be pursued and information posted on our website as convention nears.

For the most direct hotel reservations at convention rates, go to <https://book.passkey.com/e/50845833>. You may also call 1-888-627-8148 and inform Reservations you will be attending The Gesneriad Society Convention 2025.

Our convention rate at the Sheraton Parsippany for traditional rooms (1 king or 2 double beds) is **\$149 including a hot and cold buffet breakfast** (for 2 per room). Add \$10 for triple and \$20 for quad occupancies. For other room options (larger or superior rooms or suites) visit the hotel website or contact <jkatzenste@aol.com>.

To guarantee convention rates, reservations must be received by June 23, 2025 (or earlier if our contracted room block has been filled by that date). Rooms are subject to applicable taxes (currently 14.625%). Check-in time is 4pm and check-out time is 11am. Rates are in effect three days before and three days after our convention week so plan to come early and stay late to enjoy all that the area has to offer.

Amuse Restaurant serves breakfast Monday to Friday from 6:30-10:30am and on Saturday and Sunday from 7-11am. Amuse Bar is open for dinner from 4-11pm.

Important Changes for Hotel Meals in 2025

Breakfast – Note that a complete buffet breakfast is included in the \$149 Sheraton Hotel room rate. Hotel hours for breakfast currently are 6:30-10:30am weekdays and 7:00 to 11:00am weekends.

Lunch – Note that the Sheraton Hotel restaurant does not currently provide any lunch service so all convention attendees will need to provide their own lunches. Options include many local eateries (short car or Uber distances); order-in for delivery to the hotel; earlier purchased lunch items can be kept in the mini-refrigerators in all hotel rooms; lunch can be skipped after eating a large breakfast, etc. <https://gesneriadsociety.org/conventions/2025-convention-parsippany-nj/>