

**CALL
to
2012 DEEP SOUTH REGION CONVENTION**

This is your official call to the 2012 Deep South Region Convention to be held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, at Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center on March 18-20, 2012. We have planned an informational, educational, entertaining and fun-filled convention for you.

FACTS ABOUT THE AREA:

Murfreesboro is located in Rutherford County, Tennessee. The county is called the “Heart of Tennessee” because the exact geographic center of the state is located there. The county displays a unique blend of Civil War history and a thriving 21st century community. The Civil War is forever linked with the history of Rutherford County. Stones River National Battlefield, located in Murfreesboro, is a National Park and tells the poignant story of those who fought and died at the Battle of Stones River. Antebellum mansions share their history of earlier times and Civil War struggles. Downtown Murfreesboro’s historic town square is a throwback to yesteryears. The historic courthouse dates back before the Civil War times and has served as a watchtower, ballroom, prison and Tennessee’s State Capitol from 1819-1826. The natural scenic beauty of the countryside includes lush, green pastures and walking horse farms along with dairy farms and the picturesque Greenway River Trail. Cannonsburgh, a reconstructed “Southern Village” that was created as part of the American Revolution Bicentennial project in 1974, serves as a reminder of pioneer times in Rutherford County.

Industry abounds in Rutherford County with corporate giants such as Nissan, Ingram, Whirlpool, General Mills, State Farm, Bridgestone-Firestone and Verizon Wireless. Murfreesboro is home to Middle Tennessee State University, the fastest-growing and largest undergraduate university in the state. The Avenue Murfreesboro, located adjacent to Embassy Suites Hotel, showcases a new concept in upscale shopping and dining. Antique malls and shops are plentiful. The county combines the benefits of small-town living with the amenities of a major metropolitan area.

You are cordially invited to come and spend extra time in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. We hope that you will take time to enjoy some of the unique and historical places to visit in the county. Come early and stay late! Area tours are posted on the DSR web site.

2012 DEEP SOUTH REGION CONVENTION, “HEART OF TENNESSEE”

A “Welcome Dinner” with entertainment is planned for convention attendees arriving on March 18th. We will be going to Maple Street Grill, located on Murfreesboro’s historic square, for some southern fixings and some country/bluegrass music and line dancing. A stroll around the beautiful square will complete the evening.

On March 19th, Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs’ own Pam Braun will be the featured designer at the Design Luncheon. Pam is a NGC Accredited Flower Show Judge and an instructor for NGC Flower Show Schools. That afternoon, you will be taken back in time to the 1850s-1860s when you visit Oakland Historic House and Museum. Ladies of that era spent their afternoons creating handmade crafts, sipping tea, leisurely strolling the grounds and gardens, and admiring the beautiful plantation home they might live in or visit. You, too, will do all of these leisurely activities when you attend the Oaklands Workshop that is planned for you. That evening Deep South Regional Director Sara Lanier will address the attendees and share news of plans and projects taking place in our six southeastern states.

On March 20th, Don Shadow, nationally and internationally known horticulturist and owner of Shadow’s Nursery in Winchester, TN, will present the program at the Horticulture Luncheon. Don will bring you up to date with the latest in horticulture (including much that he has hybridized) and share with

you his knowledge on saving endangered animal species. A pictorial presentation of his extensive collection of over sixty animal species living at his nursery will be included in his program. A “Building Membership Workshop” will be presented by Betty Grimes, DS Alternate Regional Director and DSR Project Chairman. The TFGC Judges Council will stage a Standard Flower Show, which will open in the afternoon. Shirley Nicolai, NGC President, has accepted our invitation to attend the 2012 DSR Convention and the 2012 TFGC 85th Annual Meeting. That evening, Ms. Nicolai will address the attendees and share news of garden club projects and events on the national level.

The convention will be filled with informative programs, constructive workshops, a Standard Flower Show, great vendors, Murfreesboro area tour suggestions, seeing old friends and making new friendships, a great hotel, wonderful food, and lots of fun activities. We invite you to stay over and attend our TFGC 85th Annual Meeting on March 21-22, 2012. We hope you come early and stay late and enjoy the history and beauty of the “Heart of Tennessee.” We want you to leave with the knowledge of what life is like in Middle Tennessee, with a wealth of garden related information, and with fond memories of good times in Murfreesboro.

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Our hotel is one of eleven upscale John Q. Hammons Embassy Suites Hotels. Your room rate of \$127 per night includes a complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast served each morning and a nightly Manager’s Reception featuring your favorite beverages. All accommodations are two-room suites with oversized bedrooms.

REGISTRATION FORMS AND HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED ON THE DSR WEB SITE IN SEPTEMBER. www.dsregion.org

For those interested in staying over for the 2012 TFGC 85th Annual Meeting on March 21-22, information can be found on TFGC web site. Registration forms will be posted in September. www.tfgconline.org

2012 Convention Co-chairmen: Pam Dowd, Mary Lou Gallagher and Florence Ann Ketelsen