



**Please join us for GCI's
93rd Annual Convention
Climate Change
Sunday, April 26 - Monday, April 27, 2020**



Gay L. Austin, President of National Garden Clubs, Inc., is a native of Liberty, Mississippi. Gay joined the McComb Garden Club and the Flower Lovers Garden Club in McComb and the Natchez Garden Club in Natchez, Mississippi. Serving in many positions preceded State President of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. Gay is an NGC Master Flower Show Judge and NGC Flower Show Schools Horticulture Instructor. She is currently on the Executive Committee of both Keep Mississippi Beautiful and the Mississippi Heritage Trust. She is a Pike County Master Gardener. Gay is a member of the Amite River Daughters of the American Revolution and is on the County Chamber of Commerce and Junior Auxiliary. In her spare time, she is on the Board of the animal rescue PALS Rescue, Inc. She is a multimedia artist with works in many private and corporate collections. Gay is inspired by the words "the service you give to others is the legacy you leave behind," that have strengthened her commitment to her family, her community, her state, and National Garden Clubs.



Join us for a tour of the College of DuPage Meteorology Lab on Climate Change. We get to appreciate the hands-on activities the students participate in to learn about weather and climate. We will see the impact of CO₂ using satellite observation. We will have a short lesson on the fundamentals of climate change and be exposed to some field work studying Climate Change. Our host at the College of DuPage is **Professor Ronald Stenz**. He is an Assistant Professor teaching a variety of meteorology classes including Climate and Global Change. Professor Stenz has a BS in Atmospheric Sciences and Applied Economics from Cornell University. He received a MS in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of North Dakota, where he is currently a PhD candidate.



Hydroclimatologist **Dr. Trent Ford** is the current Illinois State Climatologist, appointed August 12, 2019. A native of Roanoke, Illinois, Ford previously was an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Resources at Southern Illinois University. In addition to teaching courses on weather, climate, and society and hazardous weather, he received funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to research heat wave predictability and develop ways to use soil moisture data to improve drought monitoring. He earned a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University before completing his master's and PhD at Texas A&M University. The Illinois State Climatologist provides climate data, maps, and information for Illinois farmers, government agencies and policymakers, and all citizens. The State Climatologist acts as the state's authority on climate science.



Stems Florist in St. Louis, MO is an Award Winning, family-owned sustainable floral design studio specializing in floral artistry, high style, unique, one-of-a-kind flower designs for all of life's festive occasions. This business is led by the unforgettable talent of **Jenny Thomason**, AIFD PFCI EMC CFD. Experience all of the senses that this presentation will touch. Jenny's floral designs are overflowing with the essence of organic style, fresh air, life, and artistry. She brings the beauty of nature into everything she designs, creating exceptional events and fabulous floral designs that people will be talking about for years to come. Jenny proudly calls St. Louis home.