

**2019 International Master Gardener Conference
June 17 – 21, 2019**

**Valley Forge Casino Resort
1160 First Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406**

www.internationalmastergardener.com

The conference planning committee is shifting into high gear as we approach three months until the start of our gathering! Hopefully you have registered and made your lodging arrangements. If not, it's time to do it before Early Registration ends on April 14th.

Let's talk travel and transportation. We chose this location because of its proximity to Philadelphia without the expense of being in the city. Now let's figure out how to get you here!

If you are traveling in by car, Valley Forge Casino Resort (VFCR) wants you to make note of these travel tips for locating the resort:

- *Exit 326 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike from the east (N.J.) and the west (Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, etc.).*
- *Driving from Center City Philadelphia or Atlantic City? The Schuylkill Expressway (I-76) is your best bet.*
- *If you're coming from Philadelphia International Airport, take I-476 (talk like the locals and call it the Blue Route) north and then the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76) west.*
- *If driving up from the south (Delaware, for instance), you can take U.S. Route 202 and land virtually in our backyard.*
- *Visitors from the distant north (New York, New England, etc.) or the south (D.C., the Carolinas, Florida, etc.) can access I-95 to get here and get home.*

But I'm flying in to Philadelphia International Airport, you say, and I don't want to rent a car! Is there a shuttle? No, we are just a bit too far for the hotels to be able to do that ... but here are some suggestions:

- *Commute to and from the airport via **Tropiano** shuttle company. Shuttles depart from the Airport Ground Transportation Area every 30 minutes from 6 a.m. to midnight. Be sure to make reservations, though, by calling Tropiano at +1 (215) 616-5370.*
- *Traveling with others? You might want to consider a limo service. Current pricing is approximately \$104.15 (including driver gratuity) for 1-3 passengers for a pick-up at PHL International Airport and drop-off at Valley Forge Casino Resort. Call King Limousine & Transportation Services, Inc. at 610-233-1016 for reservations or questions. Check out their mobile app; you might just find a discount coupon.*
- *And don't forget Lyft or Uber for yet another option! They are pretty popular around here.*

We know that some are traveling by rail into Philadelphia. Amtrak provides service from cities up and down the east coast corridor to Philadelphia's 30th Street Station. From there Valley Forge is accessible by cab/Uber/Lyft, regional rail or limo (King Limousine & Transportation Services, Inc.).

Once you are comfortably settled into your hotel room, you'll want to know how to get around town. You are very close to dining, shopping, entertainment, etc.

- Our conference hotels have shuttles that will get you around town.
- Beginning on Sunday, June 16th through Friday, June 21st, we will have shuttles back and forth to VFCR and the Doubletree. The schedule will be posted but here is a preview for you:
 - Sunday, June 16, 2019.....7:00 –9:30 AM
 - Monday, June 17, 2019.....7:00 AM –9:00 PM
 - Tuesday, June 18, 2019.....6:30 –9:30 AM and 4:00 –9:30 PM
 - Wednesday, June 19, 2019.....6:30 –9:30 AM and 4:00 –9:30 PM
 - Thursday, June 20, 2019.....6:30 –9:30 AM and 4:00 –9:30 PM
 - Friday, June 21, 2019.....6:30 AM –1:00 PM

If you are driving to the conference each day, there is plenty of parking...and it's free! Drive around to the casino side of the resort and pick your spot. As a bonus, please note that VFCR offers free valet parking as well.

During the conference we are hoping to keep you busy learning and networking (and bidding and shopping). We have heard, though, that the public gardens in the greater Philadelphia region are a 'destination spot' for some. If this applies to you, please be sure to stop by the Greater Philadelphia Gardens (GPG) table in Marketplace. Here you will find brochures from many of the public gardens and further information on how to visit. There will be a board where you can post 'I want a ride' or 'I can give a ride' to a favorite destination.

We hope we've covered questions you might have on transportation. As always, check our website for updates (<http://www.internationalmastergardener.com>) and further information about the conference. Contact <mailto:deb@internationalmastergardener.com> if you have any particular questions or challenges.

Thanks for reading this update!

Your 2019 Conference Planning Committee