



April 24, 2014

The Missouri Department of Agriculture is very pleased to host the 2014 National Plant Board meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. The meeting will be held Sunday, July 27 through Thursday, July 31 with the General Session beginning on Monday, July 28. A draft copy of the agenda is now available at www.nationalplantboard.org/meetings/index.html.

The meeting will be held at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark in downtown St. Louis. The address is 1 South Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102. The hotel is located approximately 15 miles from St. Louis Lambert International Airport (STL). The hotel does not provide a shuttle. However, you can schedule a pickup with Go Best Express at our negotiated rate of \$34 roundtrip or \$18 one way. For the negotiated rate use this [link](#) (also see links below). For those driving to the meeting, the hotel offers valet parking for \$15 per night or you may self-park for \$8 per night (NPB rate). Since the parking garage is over a block away in downtown St. Louis, I highly recommend taking advantage of the valet parking option. The nightly lodging rate is \$108 plus tax. This is the federal per diem rate for St. Louis. Please call the hotel directly at 314-421-1776 and ask for the “National Plant Board” meeting rate. Or use our online NPB reservation link [here](#). **The hotel reservation deadline is Friday, June 27, 2014.**

Meeting registration is \$400 if received by Monday, July 7 or \$450 after July 7. We are extremely pleased to be able to offer the option of paying for your registration via credit card. You may do this by calling our office at 573-751-5505 and providing your information to Bonnie Russell. If you prefer to pay by check, then checks should be made payable to “National Plant Board” and be sure to write “NPB meeting” on the memo line. Cash payments will also be accepted at the door. A tour for spouses is being planned so be sure to bring that someone special along with you. The spouse program details are still being worked out but feel free to email Collin Wamsley to find out more information (collin.wamsley@mda.mo.gov).

The weather in St. Louis during August is usually hot (90’s likely) and humid so plan accordingly. An umbrella may also be a handy item to bring along for the outdoor portion of the tour. For the site visit on Wednesday afternoon, we will start with box lunches at the hotel. Then we will visit the [Missouri Botanical Gardens](#). Please bring comfortable walking shoes as we will do a guided walking tour through part of the gardens. To take a break from the St. Louis summer heat we will then take a bus tour of [Forest Park](#), the site of the 1904 World’s Fair, followed by a stop at the [Missouri History Museum](#). That evening we will have dinner at [Pietro’s](#) on the “The Hill”.

The Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark is in downtown St. Louis near the Mighty Mississippi, next to [Bush Stadium](#) and the brand new [Ballpark Village](#). It is also next door to the [Old Courthouse](#) and a block

away from the St. Louis [Gateway Arch](#) as well as [Riverboat Cruises](#). There is plenty to see and do right within a short walking distance from the hotel so we hope you can take time and enjoy what St. Louis has to offer. We are especially pleased to host you in St. Louis in 2014 as the city turns 250 years old! Learn more at www.stl250.org.

If you would like to have an exhibit at the meeting, we do have some space available. Please indicate on the registration form that you will be bringing a display and if you need a table or electric.

Again, we are extremely happy to be hosting this year's meeting and we are looking forward to seeing everyone in St. Louis. Feel free to contact me if have any questions about the meeting.

Sincerely,
Collin Wamsley

Meeting contacts

Please contact Collin Wamsley or Bonnie Russell if you have questions about the meeting or spouse program.

(573) 751-5505 office phone

(573) 522-1109 fax

collin.wamsley@mda.mo.gov

bonnie.russell@mda.mo.gov

Links and Local Attractions

Lambert-St. Louis International Airport (STL): www.flystl.com

Go Best Express (airport shuttle):

<http://besttransportation.hudsonltd.net/res?USERIDENTRY=HILTONBALL&LOGON=GO>

St. Louis Hilton at the Ballpark Hotel:

<http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/S/STLBVHF-NPB-20140724/index.jhtml>

St. Louis 250th Anniversary: www.stl250.org

St. Louis Tourism: www.explorestlouis.com

MetroLink Transportation: www.metrostlouis.org

Gateway Arch: www.gatewayarch.com

Old Courthouse: www.gatewayarch.com/experience/old-courthouse

City Garden: www.citygardenstl.org

Forest Park: <https://stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/parks/parks/Forest-Park.cfm>

St. Louis Zoo: www.stlzoo.org

Missouri Botanical Gardens: www.mobot.org

Grant's Farm: www.anheuser-busch.com/index.php/our-heritage/grants-farm

Anheuser-Bush: www.budweisertours.com/z01/index.php/st-louis/overview

Bush Stadium/St. Louis Cardinals: <http://stlouis.cardinals.mlb.com/stl/ballpark/index.jsp>

Ballpark Village: www.stlballparkvillage.com

Historic Soulard Market: www.soulardmarket.com

Riverboat Cruises: www.gatewayarch.com/experience/gateway-arch-riverboat-cruises



DOOR PRIZE CERTIFICATE

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National Plant Board presents you with a gift of:

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INSTRUCTIONS

Donor: Fill out top half and bring to the meeting (with door prize if easily transported).
 Lucky Recipient: Fill out the bottom half and mail it to the donor.