



# GOING & GROWING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

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Convention Theme: “Ready, Set...Grow”!

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## NATIONAL JUNIOR HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

October 6 – 9, 2017

Indianapolis, Indiana

### LET’S TALK ABOUT INDY! – RACHEL HAMMOND – INDIANA – NJHA PRESIDENT

**Hello current or future NJHA Alumni, I am so excited to welcome everyone to my home state of Indiana in October. Indiana has endless opportunities and an overabundance of things to see and do! I continue to learn about Indiana and am lucky to live in a state with some of the richest limestone soil in the country. Nearly half of the crop land in the Hoosier state is planted with corn. Oddly enough, 90 percent of Orville Redenbacher popcorn comes from Indiana. Indiana is also the home state of the Red Gold brand, which was founded in 1942. You can also thank Indiana for getting those products to a store near you! The first gasoline pump was built in Fort Wayne, IN on September 5, 1885.**

**Aside from Indiana as a whole, Indianapolis is a big city full of excitement, greenery, and life. It is widely known for the big Indy 500 race and Colts Football. Indianapolis is also the reason why Indiana is called the Crossroads of America, as it has 6 interstates that run right through it. It is very possible that you may pass a semi-truck that is full of Beans, shipping out to other states across the U. S. The creator (Gilbert Van Camp) of Van Camp’s Pork and beans worked in the Indy area and found that people loved his recipe, so he chose to sell it and make it a name brand. The capital City is also a big site to see and visit in December because of the magnificent Christmas tree that has 52 strands of garland and almost 5,000 lights in the exhibit. It is known as the Circle of Lights and it is asserted that it is the world’s largest Christmas tree. Sure, is beautiful! That’s not the only thing to have a camera ready for in Indy, enjoy the sculptures, style and speed.**

**I hope this has you excited to visit Indianapolis because we have some great tours, workshops, and activities planned. You won't want to miss out on what this big city has in store for you. See you in October at the Wyndham West in Indianapolis.**

**READY, SET...GROW! – PAIGE ADAMS – ILLINOIS – NJHA DIRECTOR AT  
LARGE**

**This year's NJHA National Convention is going to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 6 – 9, 2017. This year's theme will be Ready, Set...Grow! So buckle up and get ready for the best convention we have had yet! As the folks in NASCAR would say, if you blink you'll miss the whole race. So try to keep your eyes open wide because I know you don't want to miss any of this year's convention! I can't wait until I see all of you come this fall! Now, let's start the race to convention...Ready, Set...Grow!**

**WYNDHAM INDIANAPOLIS WEST – ADAM ROMLEIN – NEW YORK –  
NJHA PAST PRESIDENT**

**Hey guys! I'm excited to see you this October for NJHA's 83<sup>rd</sup> convention in Indianapolis, Indiana! The hotel you will be staying at is quite a nice facility, and quite inclusive. Free WIFI, free parking, 24/7 café, an included Indianapolis airport shuttle and a fitness center are just some of the amenities you will find. The checkout time is 12:00 PM, so you can plan accordingly for whichever day you may depart.**

**You will be able to enjoy some delicious meals as both our banquets will be held in their gorgeous banquet hall. Along with the dinners, we also have a scheduled breakfast buffet included in your registration for all 3 mornings. After having stayed at this hotel, the cleanliness of the facility and friendliness of the staff was exemplary and I am sure you will find the same. I look forward to seeing you there.**



## **TOURS NOT TO MISS – ABBY KULPA – FLORIDA – NJHA VICE PRESIDENT**

### **IMA Gardens and Greenhouse**

**In addition to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, one of the top 10 largest art museums in the U. S. NJHA will have the opportunity to explore their world-renowned gardens and greenhouse. The 52-acre property was once a wealthy family's estate, and the museum has worked to preserve its history as well as to incorporate modern horticultural design. Prepare yourself for a scenic walk through time as you experience the beauty of the original estate. Everything from the Magnolia trees to the Sweet Viburnum and Rosemary plants will welcome you in to this magnificent garden experience. It will be a relaxing trip for the NJHA youth who want to explore more of Indiana's beautiful flora, and even includes some modern sculptures interspersed between the horticulture for those interested in the arts. Most notable is the "Funky Bones" sculpture that was featured in the popular movie and book titled "The Fault in Our Stars" written by Joh Green, an Indianapolis native! Although it may be easy to get lost in the beautiful gardens, NJHA members are encouraged to check out the museum's Elder Greenhouse that originally was a part of the estate and was then renovated to grow a variety of plants that are sold by the museum. Now, it serves as a completely public garden that boasts of orchids from all around North and South America, as well as a wide variety of tropical plants that will be a treat for us during our visit in the chilly month of October. It will definitely be a tour stop to remember, and it will be a great cultural experience for all participating NJHA members.**

### **White River Gardens**

**Youth will also get the chance to explore the White River Garden right next to the Indianapolis Zoo! Although it is only three acres, there is plenty to see in this lush environment with stunning architecture and some amazing fountains and relaxing walking paths. The gardens feature a massive observatory in the center that usually house hundreds of butterflies in a tropical paradise. By the fall, this exhibit will be replaced by some spectacular foliage that all NJHA members will be sure to enjoy. This beautiful garden has a welcoming reception area where we will be able to enjoy a private sit-down dinner experience that will be the perfect end to a long day of touring. We are welcome to explore the grounds during this visit and after our meal, the youth can simply visit with other teams from around the nation to make new friends. It is sure to be a highlight of our week in Indianapolis, and we cannot wait to join you at our fall convention.**

**CORN OR ORCHIDS – WHICH WILL YOU CHOOSE?**  
**ANGELA RICHARDS – CALIFORNIA – NJHA SECRETARY**

We cannot wait until October when you are in Indiana with us. After exploring, we have settled on some unique tours to see things we might not get a chance to see elsewhere. You will have two options for Monday tours to choose from – both are terrific! One option will be visiting Heartland Growers, one of the largest suppliers of plant material to Lowes and the Dow AgroScience headquarters where we will have lunch, view presentations by Dow employees while touring the Research & Development (R & D) building. Depending on what is going on the day of our tours, we could get a chance to see their experimental greenhouses, seeding lab, or growth chambers and enjoy a hands-on lab experience. This tour option will be meeting the other group at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The other tour will visit the largest orchid nursery in the state, Hilltop Orchids, a short distance from Indianapolis. This group will also be visiting POET Biorefining where they will gain some knowledge as they tour the plant and learn about the process to turn corn into ethanol and animal feeds. Following lunch they will head to the Speedway to merge with the other group.

Please be aware when deciding what tour you would like to go on that those attendees under the age of thirteen will not be allowed to tour the Dow R &D facilities and would be strongly encouraged to attend the POET/Orchid tour.

