

CHICAGO

2025 AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY & MIDWEST DAHLIA CONFERENCE
58TH NATIONAL SHOW

SEPTEMBER 18 - 22, 2025

Central States Dahlia Society is excited to welcome dahlia enthusiasts from around the world to Chicago for the **58th American Dahlia Society National Show and Midwest Dahlia Conference**, taking place on **September 18 – 22, 2025**.

Chicago, affectionately referred to as The Windy City and as Second City, boasts world-class architecture, renowned museums, exceptional dining, and a vibrant lakefront. It's no surprise that *Conde' Nast Traveler* Reader's Choice has named it the Best Big City in the US for eight consecutive years. Come experience it firsthand!



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Sophisticated Accommodations – Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel

Attendees will stay at the 4-star Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel in Northbrook, conveniently located just 30 minutes from O'Hare Airport and only 5 – 10 minutes from the Chicago Botanic Garden. The Renaissance features stylishly renovated rooms, an on-site restaurant, fitness center, and complimentary parking. Rooms are available at a special rate of \$115 plus tax per night.

[Book using the group rate](#) for 2025 ADS National Show. Learn more about the hotel (part of the Marriott family) and its amenities [here](#).

Scheduled transport between the hotel and the Garden makes attending the National Show possible without requiring a rental car. Additionally, rideshare options such as Uber and Lyft as well as local taxis are readily available.

Incredible Venue – Chicago Botanic Garden

The Chicago Botanic Garden, a 385-acre living plant museum, will provide a breathtaking backdrop for the dahlia show. Located in Glencoe, about 20 miles north of downtown Chicago and less than two miles from Lake Michigan, the Garden offers 27 display gardens and five natural habitats. Your registration name tag grants you free entry and complimentary parking. Take a free tram tour to get an overview of the Garden's stunning landscapes. Then, explore favorites like the Japanese Garden, Evening Island, the Rose Garden, the English Walled Garden, the Green Roof Garden, and the Model Railroad Garden, among many others. Be sure to bring comfortable walking shoes! Prepare to be delighted in this 1 minute [video overview of the Chicago Botanic Garden](#).

The show will be housed in three main areas in the Regenstein Center. **Nichols Hall**, designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes, features a dramatic two-story skylight and Canadian hemlock walls and ceiling. This space provides an elegant setting for the dahlia entries and the prestigious Honor Table. **Burnstein Hall**, an airy room with garden views, will house the Artistic Design exhibits along with the Dahlia Boutique. Photography entries will be arranged in the **Krehbiel Gallery**, the Garden's premier art exhibition display space.

The Chicago Botanic Garden has proudly hosted Central States' dahlia sales and shows since the early 1980s, and we deeply appreciate their support and partnership.



Photos courtesy of Chicago Botanic Garden

Historic Host – Central States Dahlia Society

When you join us at the 58th ADS National Show, you are stepping into dahlia history. Yes, indeed, Central States hosted the very first International Dahlia Exhibition at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago!

Our Society was incorporated in 1932, originally formed in anticipation of the 1933-34 Century of Progress World's Fair in Chicago with the intent to form the "World's Fair Dahlia Society." That name was changed to Central States Dahlia Society, Inc (CSDS) as the Society was incorporated ahead of the Fair.

In both 1933 and 1934, CSDS sponsored a large dahlia garden in an area east of Chicago's Loop. While the first year presented challenges, adjustments in 1934 led to a much-improved display. After the World's Fair concluded, members saw an opportunity to continue fostering their passion for dahlias and decided to establish a lasting society.



Ad from World's Fair Show Edition brochure; CSDS archives

Beyond the 1933 exhibition, CSDS has proudly hosted four other ADS National Shows—in 1973, 1981, 2007, and 2017, with the most recent also taking place at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

The success of CSDS helped inspire the formation of the Southtown Dahlia Club, a sister organization in Chicago's south suburbs. Several of their members are actively serving in leadership and volunteer roles for the event, and we deeply appreciate their contributions and support!



2017 ADS National Show at Chicago Botanic Garden; photo by Maria Rebelo

Registration Information

Registration Options

Each attendee of the 2025 ADS National Show must register at one of the following three levels. A person who wishes to only exhibit does not need to register.



Full Registration (\$175)

Includes: Show Registration, Goody bag, Thursday evening Meet and Greet, Hospitality room Friday and Saturday, Saturday lunch, Saturday's Educational Seminars, Saturday evening awards banquet, Sunday's buffet breakfast, Sunday's ADS meetings (classification, judging, and annual membership), ice cream social Sunday night, and free shuttles between hotel and Chicago Botanic Garden. Also included are free admission, parking, and tram tours at the Chicago Botanic Garden with your show name tag.



Partial Registration (\$125)

Includes: Show Registration, Goody bag, Hospitality room Friday and Saturday, Saturday lunch, Saturday's Educational Seminars, Saturday evening awards banquet, and Sunday's ADS meetings (classification, judging and annual membership). Also included are free admission, parking, and tram tours at the Chicago Botanic Garden with your show name tag.



Child Registration (\$50)

For child 16 years and under accompanied by a registered adult. May attend all events that their adult is registered for. Will be provided a child's menu for Saturday's lunch and banquet meal. No goody bag provided.

Important Registration Dates

Early registration ends **Thursday, July 31, 2025**. Beginning August 1, each registration will incur a **\$25 late fee**. Registration must be received by **Friday, August 29, 2025** (or earlier if maximum registration is reached). NO registrations will be accepted after that date including NO registrations on-site.



Registration cancellations must be done by email at csds2025show@gmail.com by **Friday, August 29, 2025**, to receive a full refund of registration fees. Refunds will be processed within 2 weeks. **No refunds** will be given for cancellations after August 29.

Hotel cancellations must be done directly with the Renaissance Hotel.

Schedule at a Glance

Below is a high-level overview of the show weekend. Events start at noon on Thursday with the first tour and will end around 5 p.m. on Monday. A detailed schedule will be available soon.



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 18

- Walking Tour of Ravinia's Sculpture Collection
- Behind the Scenes Tour of Chicago Botanic Garden Production Greenhouses
- Meet and Greet Reception, Renaissance Hotel

Friday, September 19

- Staging Begins, Chicago Botanic Gardens
- Bahá'í Temple & Gardens, Navy Pier, and Elks National Memorial Tour
- Hospitality Room, Renaissance Hotel

Saturday, September 20

- Judging of Blooms, Chicago Botanic Gardens
- Lunch, Chicago Botanic Gardens
- Educational Workshops and Seminars, Chicago Botanic Gardens
- Pre-Banquet Happy Hour, Renaissance Hotel
- Awards Banquet, Renaissance Hotel

Sunday, September 21

- Breakfast Buffet, Renaissance Hotel
- Classification Committee Meeting, Renaissance Hotel
- ADS Annual Membership Meeting, Renaissance Hotel
- Steve Meggos Dahlia Garden Tour and Picnic
- Ice Cream Social, Renaissance Hotel

Monday, September 22

- Ball Horticultural and Morton Arboretum Tour

Optional Tours

Five optional tours will be offered throughout the weekend. [Learn more about each tour](#) including food options for Monday's tour and **updated availability status**. Tours include:



Ravinia's Sculpture Collection - FREE

Thursday, September 18, 2025

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Transportation on your own, cars depart from the Renaissance Hotel



Behind the Scenes, Chicago Botanic Garden Production Greenhouses - \$20

SOLD OUT / WAITLIST ONLY Thursday, September 18, 2025

2:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Transportation provided to CBG by the Renaissance Hotel
(max 20 people)



Bahá'í Temple & Gardens, Navy Pier, Elks National Memorial - \$40

Friday, September 19, 2025

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Bus departs from the Renaissance Hotel

Lunch on your own at Navy Pier
(min 25, max 50 people)



Steve Meggos Dahlia Garden Tour and Picnic Lunch - \$45

SOLD OUT / WAITLIST ONLY Sunday, September 21, 2025

Noon - 4:30 p.m.

Bus departs from Renaissance Hotel (no private cars allowed)

Picnic Lunch included
(min 25, max 50 people)



Ball Horticulture and Morton Arboretum - \$55

SOLD OUT / WAITLIST ONLY Monday, September 22, 2025

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Bus departs from the Renaissance Hotel

Box Lunch included; see menu choices above under Meals
(min 25, max 50 people)

NOTE: Tour reservations will be confirmed in the order received. Tours may be cancelled if tour minimums are not reached. Waitlists for tours will be maintained. Refunds will be issued in September for cancelled tours or reservations that cannot be accommodated.

Meals

Great care has been taken in planning meals for attendees to enjoy throughout the weekend. Please note Thursday Meet and Greet and Sunday buffet breakfast are only for Full Registrants.

On Thursday, September 18 from 6 – 8 p.m., join us at the **Meet and Greet** to reconnect with old friends and meet new friends. Festivities will be held in the Glencoe Room at the Renaissance North Shore Hotel with additional seating outside on the adjoining patio. Participants will enjoy an hors d'oeuvres selection including roasted vegetables, antipasto platter, baked brie en croûte, and fresh fruits and berries. An optional cash bar service will be available.

An all-day tour to **Bahá'í Temple, Navy Pier, and Elks National Memorial** on Friday, September 19 includes lunch on your own at Navy Pier, the Midwest's most visited tourist destination, with plenty of options to choose from. The Pier offers a variety of choices, including a food court, classic favorites like chicken, burgers, hot dogs, and pizza, as well as international cuisines such as Chinese and tamales. Be sure to save room for dessert, as there's a tempting array of ice cream flavors available too!

After the dahlias have been displayed and judged, a **box lunch** will be served on Saturday, September 20 from 12 – 2 p.m. at McGinley Pavilion, a covered veranda facing the Great Basin, a lake at the Chicago Botanic Garden. All lunches include garden salad, house-made chips, house-made cookie, and beverage. Adults will have a choice of:

- **Chicken Avocado Club Panini.** Sliced roasted chicken breast, avocado, provolone, bacon, beefsteak tomato, basil pesto mayo on ciabatta
- **Roast Beef.** Thinly sliced roast beef, horseradish aioli, shaved red onion, baby arugula, provolone on a French roll
- **Veggie Mediterranean Wrap (V).** Hummus, roasted red peppers, cucumber, feta, cherry heirloom tomatoes, pepperoncini with **choice of tortilla:** herb tomato, spinach, or gluten-free
- **Cheeseburger** with fries (**CHILD registration only**)
- **Grilled Cheese** with fries (**CHILD registration only**)
- **Chicken Strips** with fries (**CHILD registration only**)

Saturday evening, everyone is welcome to join us for a **Pre-Banquet Happy Hour** from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel in the foyer adjoining the Northbrook Ballroom. Premium beverages, wine, beer, and soda will be available for attendees to purchase at the cash bar.

The **Saturday evening Awards Banquet** will be an event to remember. It will be held in the Northbrook Ballroom from 7 – 10 p.m. Each adult dinner includes a seasonal green salad, bread service, coffee, tea, and dessert. Cash bar will be available throughout the event.

Attendees will have a choice of one of the following meals:

- **Chicken Reggiano.** Chicken, roasted in a light white wine sauce gently flavored with garlic. Features roasted asparagus and diced tomatoes.
- **Grilled Salmon.** Grilled marinated Salmon on a bed of julienned fennel and capers drizzled with a light chervil cream sauce.
- **Prime Rib of Beef.** Roasted Prime Rib of Beef, fresh horseradish, and roasted garlic cloves.
- **Steamed Vegetables.** Crisply steamed seasonal vegetables with side of pasta in natural juices.
- **Chicken Strips (CHILD only)** with side of macaroni and cheese, and dessert.

On September 21, attendees registered as Full Registrants as well as ADS reps and their families are invited to a **Sunday morning breakfast buffet** at the Renaissance Hotel from 7:15 – 8:45 a.m. in Winnetka A, B and C Ballrooms. Buffet includes an assortment of baked goods including muffins, pastries, and croissants served with fresh berries. Hot dishes offered are scrambled eggs, sausages, bacon, breakfast potatoes, and oatmeal with raisins. Drink options available are chilled juices, milk, coffee and teas (both caffeinated and decaf options).

Sunday afternoon's tour to **Steve Meggos's garden** includes a picnic lunch featuring chicken, Vienna all-beef hot dogs, a variety of fresh salads (including vegan and vegetarian options), soft drinks and water, and dessert.

Monday, September 22 is the tour to **Ball Horticultural Company and the Morton Arboretum**. We will enjoy a box lunch at Ball's lovely, covered pavilion in their display gardens. Sub sandwiches from Jersey Mike's Subs will be provided along with chips, bottled water, and chocolate chip cookie. Attendees will choose from the following options (all subs will include lettuce and tomato):

- Turkey and Provolone
- Italian - provolone, ham, prosciuttini, cappacuolo, salami, and pepperoni
- Roast Beef and Provolone
- The Veggie - swiss, provolone, green bell peppers

Please include any dietary considerations that need to be addressed when registering.

If you register for everything (including all the tours), you will receive all meals except: Thursday lunch, Friday breakfast, Friday lunch (on your own as part of Friday's tour), Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Sunday dinner, and Monday breakfast.

The Renaissance Hotel offers 3 restaurants, and there are [many restaurant and food options nearby](#). (Tip: If you want to dine at the legendary Ruth's Chris Steak House located in the hotel, we recommend making your reservation far in advance.) Chicago Botanic Garden has two options: the Garden Café and Grille offers breakfast and lunch with indoor and outdoor seating while the Rose Terrace Beer Garden offers craft beers, wine, and soft drinks along with appetizers, sandwiches and salads in a peaceful, outdoor setting (occasionally closed for private events). Additionally, hotel guests will have a small refrigerator in their hotel room.

A **Hospitality Room** at the Renaissance Hotel will be open Friday and Saturday evenings stocked with drinks and snacks. Full registrants are invited to the **Ice Cream Social** on Sunday evening!

Exhibitor Information

Central States Dahlia Society classifies exhibitors based on the number of hills planted at the initial time of planting. The main sections are defined as follows: A (1-30 hills), B (31-60 hills), C (61-120 hills), D (over 120 hills, amateur), E (over 120 hills, professional or use shade cloth). Exhibitors under 16 years compete in Section S for Juniors. Exhibitors who have shown for less than 3 years and have 60 or fewer hills qualify for Section W – Novice.

All other sections are open to all exhibitors. See the 2025 ADS National Show Schedule for complete details (expected to be available online in April) at www.centralstatesdahliasociety.com/2025.

During registration, please indicate if you are available to judge (if yes, select your level) or clerk.

We encourage you to participate in the **Photographic Competition**. Photography entries will be hung in the Krehbiel Gallery, the Garden's premier art exhibition display space. Please note, mail-in entries will also be accepted. [See the rules for entering here](#). **Please note requirement for 11"x14" mats**. When you register, indicate your interest and estimate how many photos you plan to enter.

The **Artistic Design** section will feature seven classes based on *Songs of Chicago*. [Become familiar with the rules here](#). Are you new to this type of floral competition? Learn more and get inspired at this [Pinterest page](#). If you plan to enter the Artistic Design competition, email Lindalee at redunicorn@sbcglobal.net as soon as possible to reserve your desired design class(es). Space is limited! Entries close by August 29 or when the section fills.

Other Things to do in the Area

Looking to extend your stay and make it a vacation? Here are additional ideas of [things to do in the area](#). If you're a baseball fan, the Cubs will be playing at Wrigley Field for six nights starting on Tuesday—a great opportunity to experience a game at this historic ballpark.



View south into Millenium Park in Chicago. Photo by Sonia Harmon.

Show Sponsorships

Individual and corporate donations will be used to provide cash prizes to show winners and to support the 2025 ADS National Show. Donors will be honored at the Saturday Banquet in the Honor Program. Donation levels are defined as follows:

- **Copper:** under \$50
- **Bronze:** \$50–\$99
- **Silver:** \$100–\$249
- **Gold:** \$250–\$499
- **Platinum:** \$500–\$999
- **Diamond:** \$1000 +

Please specify during registration (online or printed form) how you would like your donation acknowledged.

We greatly appreciate your support!

Learn More and Register

For more details on tours, meals, activities as well as links to relevant websites, visit our webpage dedicated to the 2025 show at www.centralstatesdahliasociety.com/2025.

Register now! The 2025 Show is limited to 220 participants, so make your plans and secure your spot today! [Online registration](#) is available for credit card payments (preferred). If needed, you can print a copy of the [registration form](#) and mail it in with your check to the address listed on the bottom of the form. **Early registration ends July 31.** After that, each registration will incur a \$25 late fee. **Registration closes August 29** or whenever all spots are filled. NO registrations will be accepted after that date including NO registrations on-site.

Not ready to decide? [Sign up for email updates](#) to be the first to know when new information about the 2025 Show is available for conference attendees and exhibitors.

Questions? Contact us at csds2025show@gmail.com.

**We look forward to hosting you in Chicago
September 18 - 22, 2025!**



Come be a part of dahlia history!



Photo by Maria Rebelo