2027 Convention
Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City, Nebraska
April 29 – May 1, 2027

It's Bloom Time in Nebraska City

Thursday, April 29

1:00 – 2:30 pm **OPTIONAL: Pre-Convention Private Tour**
Lauritzen Gardens, 100 Bancroft Street in Omaha

Join ILS members on a private tour of Lauritzen Gardens. *The gardens include approximately 20 lilac cultivars and many horticultural attractions. Admission ticket not included in ILS convention registration*

3:30 – 5:30 pm **Registration**
Lied Lodge

Stop by to pick up your name tag, grab convention information, and learn what Arbor Day Farm and Nebraska City have to offer.

6:00 pm **Garden Reception**
Arbor Lodge Mansion

Celebrate spring and kick of the convention at the historic Arbor Lodge Mansion, the home of the Morton family.

8:00 pm **Live Music at the Lodge**
Lied Lodge

Grab a themed drink at the Library Lounge, find a spot on the patio or near the fireplace, enjoy the music, and catch up with your old and new lilac friends.

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Updated 11/20/2026

Friday, April 30 – *Arbor Day!*

Unless specified, all activities will take place in the Steinhart Room at Lied Lodge.

7:30 am	**Registration** *Stop by to pick up your name tag, grab convention information, and learn what Arbor Day Farm and Nebraska City have to offer.*
	Breakfast
8:00 am	**Welcome** Mark DeBard, ILS President Joshua Miller, ILS Preservation Committee Co-Chair, Convention Liaison
8:15 am	**Opening Session** Mark Canney Director of Operations, Arbor Day Farm
9:15 am	**Walk or Trolley Ride to the Arbor Lodge State Historical Park**
9:45 am	**Guided Tour: Arbor Lodge State Historical Park Lilac Collection** *Max & Darlene Peterson Lilac Walk* Nathan and Ashley Mueller Volunteer Curators, Arbor Lodge State Historical Park Lilac Collection ILS Preservation Committee **Explore the Lilac Walk and the Park** *Starting at 11:30 am, the trolley will be available about every 10-15 minutes for rides back to the Lied Lodge until 12:15 pm.*
12:15 pm	**Lunch**
1:30 pm	**Educational Session 1** Kyle Broderick Coordinator, Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic University of Nebraska-Lincoln
2:25 pm	**Educational Session 2** Tammy Partsch Multipotentialite “Lilacs Don’t Have Facebook” How to promote events and increase community engagement around your lilac collection

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3:30 pm	**Guided Tour: Arbor Day Farm** *Harris Prairie and/or Hazelnut Research Field* Mark Canney Director of Operations, Arbor Day Farm Ben Heusinkvelt Grounds and Orchard Manager, Arbor Day Farm
4:30 pm	**Explore the Lied Lodge Lilacs** *Lied Lodge Arboretum*
5:30 pm	**Free time**
6:30 pm	**Silent Auction** **President's Dinner** **ILS Preservation Committee Keynote Speaker** Nate Maren Woody Plant Breeder and Genomics Specialist
8:30 pm	**End of the day** **Live Music at the Lodge** *Grab a themed drink at the Library Lounge, find a spot on the patio or near the fireplace, enjoy the music, and catch up with your old and new lilac friends.*

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Saturday, May 1

Unless specified, all activities will take place in the Steinhart Room at Lied Lodge.

7:30 am	**Registration** *Stop by to pick up your name tag, grab convention information, and learn what Arbor Day Farm and Nebraska City have to offer.*
	Breakfast
8:00 am	**Plenary Session** Kelly Applegate ILS Board Member and Lilac Breeder
8:45 am	**Walk or Trolley Ride to the Arbor Lodge State Historical Park**
9:15 am	**Guided Tour: Forest Bed Lilacs** *Forest Bed Lilacs* Nathan and Ashley Mueller Volunteer Curators, Arbor Lodge State Historical Park Lilac Collection ILS Preservation Committee
10:00 am	**Guided Tour: Arbor Lodge Mansion** *Arbor Lodge Mansion* Laura Steinman Arbor Lodge Coordinator *Starting at 11:00 am, the trolley will be available about every 10-15 minutes for rides back to the Lied Lodge until 11:30 am.*
11:30 am	**Lunch**
12:30 pm	**Educational Session 3** Speaker TBD
1:25 pm	**Educational Session 4** Speaker TBD
2:15 pm	**Free time**
2:45 pm	**Doors Open – Public Lilac Auction** *Steinhart Lodge*
3:00 pm	**Public Lilac Auction** *Steinhart Lodge* *Convention attendees must bring their ticket for entry*

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5:30 pm	**Free time**
6:30 pm	**Awards Banquet**
	Closing Speaker Laura Steinman Arbor Lodge Coordinator
	Preview of the 2028 ILS Convention Speaker TBD
9:00 pm	**End of the Convention** *Grab a themed drink at the Library Lounge, find a spot on the patio or near the fireplace, and reflect on memories made with your old and new lilac friends.*

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Sunday, May 1

Morning	**Breakfast on your own** *Start your day with hearty breakfast from Timbers in the Lied Lodge or explore other great options in Nebraska City.*
10:00 am **11:00 am** **1:00 pm**	**OPTIONAL: Arbor Day Farm's Public Lilac Tours** *Max & Darlene Peterson Lilac Walk* *Join Nathan and Ashley Mueller, volunteer lilac collection curators and ILS members, for this springtime tradition. The free 50-minute walking tour features the Max & Darlene Peterson Lilac Walk, the cornerstone of Nebraska's largest public lilac collection. Participants are strongly encouraged to register through the Arbor Day Farm events page.*

Until next time!

We wish you safe travels home and hope to see you at the 2028 Convention!

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