



“WILLOW BYGONES”
2026 INTERNATIONAL
WILLOW COLLECTORS CONVENTION
LEXINGTON, KY
July 8-11

Hello Willow Collectors!

You are invited to be a part of IWC’s 41st convention, July 8-11, at the Doubletree Suites Hotel in Lexington on Richmond Road. Join us as we take a look at “times gone by” through early pottery life, unusual 19th-century willow items and more!

Is this your first convention or is someone attending with you as a first timer? **We’re offering a Blue Plate Special discount for all first timers — \$100 off registration!** Just use the Blue Plate Special line on the registration form. We’re excited to welcome you to your first IWC convention!

Early Bird Registration is \$300 per person when postmarked on or before May 1, 2026. Postmarked on May 2 and after is \$325 per person. **All registration forms must be returned and/or postmarked no later than June 1, 2026.** Please note as you make travel plans that Lexington is in the Eastern Time Zone. The official convention starts on Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm and ends on Saturday night. There is an optional area tour with an additional fee that begins Wednesday morning, which means you may wish to stay in the hotel Tuesday night.

If you arrive on Tuesday, you can join your fellow collectors for dinner. Details to come. Dinner is optional and at your own expense.

Your 2026 registration covers all convention events, lunches and dinners. Breakfast is on your own and available in the hotel or surrounding restaurants. The hotel offers an a la carte breakfast menu. See convention meals info in this packet.

The special IWC Convention hotel room rate is \$132.00 per night, plus any taxes or fees. Please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible with the information noted in this packet. The hotel reservation deadline is Monday, June 8, 2026 – after that time, we cannot guarantee the rooms or our special rate. The hotel is pet-friendly with a non-refundable deposit; ask for details with the hotel.

Print and fill out the appropriate pages and mail them back with your check or money order according to the information included. After we process your registration, we will confirm your details.

Our website link to this registration packet is only being sent by email to members and those who have expressed interest. **The registration PDF is available at willowcollectors.org**, under the Conventions tab (2026 Convention). If you have a problem printing this packet, please contact us.

As we lead up to the convention, remember to check your emails often as that is how we will correspond with members and attendees. If you know someone who might like to join us, you can direct them to our website.

Everything you need is in this packet. We look forward to seeing you this summer. Please contact us with any questions.

Your 2026 Co-Chairs,
Nancee Rogers, nlrogers51@gmail.com, 513-527-4540
Jeff Siptak, willowware@aol.com, 615-330-8308

2026 IWC CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

1. Please print clearly. Use additional forms as needed.
2. Print, complete and return this form with your check no later than June 1, 2026. Mail to:
IWC, 6730 Main Street, Cincinnati, OH 45244. Registration confirmation will be sent by email.
3. You must cancel on or before May 1, 2026 for a 100% refund. Cancellations between May 2 and June 24th will receive a refund of amount paid minus \$50. No refunds will be made June 25th or after. Contact chairs to cancel.

Registrant 1		Registrant 2		
Last Name	First Name (will be used on name badge)	Last Name	First Name (will be used on name badge)	
Street Address		Street Address <input type="checkbox"/> check if same as Registrant 1		
City, State and Zip code		City, State and Zip code		
Email		Email <input type="checkbox"/> check if same as Registrant 1		
Primary Phone		Primary Phone <input type="checkbox"/> check if same as Registrant 1		
		Number	Fee	Total
Early Bird Registration by May 1			x \$300	\$
Blue Plate Special First Timer by May 1			x \$200	\$
Regular Registration May 2 thru June 13			x \$325	\$
Blue Plate Special First Timer May 2 thru June 13			x \$225	\$
Wednesday Tour + Lunch			x \$89	\$
Grand Sale Tables			x \$25	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE (Check payable to IWC)				\$

++ If you are joining us on Wednesday's Shaker Village tour, please specify your choice of one on-site craft workshop:

Candle (C) or Broom (B). (See packet info)	Registrant 1		Registrant 2	
	C	B	C	B

Complete the information below for each registrant by circling Yes or No

Complete the information below for each registrant by circling Yes or No	Registrant 1		Registrant 2	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Is this your first IWC convention?				
Are you joining us for Tuesday night dinner? (pay own bill at restaurant)				
Are you donating raffle items?				
Bringing items for Show and Tell? If yes, estimate your total space needed: <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 smaller items <input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 table <input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 table				
Displaying arts/crafts at Show & Tell? If yes, estimate your total space needed: <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 smaller items <input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 table <input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 table				
Displaying a place setting at Show & Tell? Space limited to 36" wide x 30" deep per setting. If bringing more than one setting display, how many?				
Bringing snacks for the hospitality room? (see info in packet)				
Participating in the Christmas in July event? (see info in packet)				
Do you have any dietary restrictions? Describe briefly:				

2026 IWC CONVENTION HOTEL INFORMATION

WHERE: DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Lexington,
2601 Richmond Rd, Lexington, KY 40509

The hotel is part of a shopping center with businesses and small restaurants. Once registered, there is parking in back of the hotel with an entrance. Please note, on the hotel website you may see a charge for parking, but as part of our agreement there is no charge.

Hotel room check-in is at 4:00 pm. Checkout is at 11:00 am.



RESERVATIONS: There are two ways to book your convention hotel room:

- 1) Contact The DoubleTree Suites by Hilton directly at 1-800-262-3774. If you need a special type of room or will request a pet-friendly room, it is best to call. To receive this special rate, mention your dates and that you are with the International Willow Collectors, as it benefits you and the club. The code for our special rate is 90F.
- 2) Go to our website (willowcollectors.org) and under the 'Conventions' tab, click on '2026 Convention.' Follow the instructions there.

Note: The hotel is pet friendly with a non-refundable pet fee of \$75 per dog. Max weight is 50 lbs, max size is medium. Contact the hotel directly with any additional questions.

CONVENTION RATES: \$132.00 per night, plus applicable fees and taxes. As a courtesy, this rate is offered two days before and two days after the convention dates (July 5-13). Please note: this rate does not include breakfast, although it is available in the hotel.

CUT OFF DATE: Reserve your room prior to Monday, June 8, to ensure availability and rate.

CANCELLATION: Any hotel cancellation must be made by attendees directly with hotel.

PARKING: Parking in back of hotel is complimentary.

AIRPORTS (read carefully): There is a complimentary hotel/airport shuttle service offered only at the Blue Grass Airport (airport code is LEX). It is 12 miles away. It is recommended you contact the hotel in advance of the convention to arrange your shuttle. There is no shuttle service offered at Louisville International Airport, 80 miles; or Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International, 90 miles. You can check these two airports' websites for ground transportation options.

Reserving your stay does not register you for the convention.

Don't forget, discover all the great things to see and do in and around Lexington at www.visitlex.com.

Questions about the convention or having trouble making a reservation, please contact Nancee Rogers.

2026 IWC CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, July 7

Joining the Shaker Village Of Pleasant Hill tour? It's best to make plans to arrive today so you're ready Wednesday morning.

Dinner (So we can reserve space, confirm participation on registration form)

If you're in time for dinner, join us at Viva Mexico, a nearby restaurant within a short walking distance. We'll get together around 6:00 pm in the lobby. Open to all members and guests. This dinner is optional and at your own expense.

Wednesday, July 8

For those arriving throughout today, you can explore the area (see visitlex.com) or settle in and visit with other attendees in the lobby or the hospitality room, where you'll find snacks and willow puzzles. (Bring willow puzzles if you have some and please label with your name). Hotel room check-in is at 4:00 pm. Checkout is at 11:00 am. Convention packets will be available for pick-up in the lobby this afternoon.

Shaker Village Of Pleasant Hill Tour (Additional registration. Confirm participation on registration form)

Each year, we plan a pre-convention, optional tour that highlights in some way the city or area we're in. This year's tour will find us at the Shaker Village Of Pleasant Hill, a landmark destination that shares 3000 acres of discovery in the spirit of the Kentucky Shakers. We will enjoy lunch there and you can participate in a craft. Additional information in this packet.

Seats will be limited on several mini buses and will be on a first-reserved and paid-for basis.

Hospitality Room (Confirm that you will donate snacks for this room on registration form)

We are fortunate that this year we can bring snacks into our hospitality room and we'd appreciate you donating something for everyone to enjoy. Since the room will be open throughout the convention, we ask that items be individually wrapped or in resealable containers. Think Little Debbie type snacks, peanut butter crackers, peanuts, pretzels in larger containers, small chip bags, etc. Anything that will keep fresh throughout the convention and not require special storage or handling.

Welcome Reception (So we can allow proper display space, confirm participation on registration form)

For those of you NOT attending the Shaker Village Of Pleasant Hill tour, the official convention begins this evening at 7:00 pm with our welcome event. You'll be our special guest, where we'll meet and greet, show and tell, and enjoy a nice dinner buffet. We'll even have small door-prize giveaways!

The reception will feature three of our favorite events and there are plenty of ways to participate: 1) bring willow items that are exceptional, unusual, a great buy or have a wonderful story; 2) bring a willow art or craft you have made; or 3) create a small place setting using willow dishes. Both members and guests are invited to bring items. Only willow-pattern-related items are allowed; please no other patterns.

The IWC Raffle (Confirm donations on registration form)

Here's a traditional event that takes place throughout the weekend. Attendees buy tickets with all proceeds going to IWC for the chance to win donated willow prizes. We ask you that you donate willow-related items for this raffle, but please consider your donations; everyone appreciates winning nice items. At the discretion of our raffle team, some items may be vetted or grouped together, or used in other ways throughout the convention.

Thursday, July 9

The Willow Pavilion

While the auction team prepares for our auction tonight, visit the Willow Pavilion in the morning, where you'll find our Roundtable Collectors Showcases, featuring IWC members with a special display of some type willow they collect. Walk around the room and visit with them, sit a spell, ask questions and learn about some unique collections.

Willow Auction (You must pre-consign your items. See Auction Agreement and Consignment List Form)

After lunch, get ready for one of our most popular events, the Willow Auction. You'll have a chance to preview all the auction items, then it's all paddles up for fun bidding and treasure finding. Hundreds of items are set to be sold, giving each of us the opportunity to go home with wonderful willow to add to our collection. People entering items in the auction to sell must register in advance. Sellers keep 80% of the selling price and 20% stays with the organization. Donations are always appreciated as IWC retains 100% of the selling price!

Friday, July 10

Speaker: Jeff Siptak — “What’s The Use”

Step back in time with Jeff and discover how a few pieces of unusual willow were used in the 19th century.

Special Video

Don't miss this viewing of “The Last Bottle Oven Firing,” detailing the last-ever firing of a bottle oven in Stoke-on-Trent.

Speaker: Nancee Rogers — “The Life of a Child in the Pottery”

IWC Business Meeting and Lunch

Be sure to attend our annual business meeting to support IWC. You'll hear reports from our trustees, and make important decisions about our organization and its future. Attendance pins will be awarded and upcoming conventions will be announced and discussed.

Wear Your Willow....A Special Friday Dinner Request!

Back by popular demand! If you have willow clothing, fashion items or jewelry, wear it to Friday night's dinner. It will be a great chance to see everyone in their willowy finest!

Saturday, July 11

Grand Willow Sale (If selling, you must confirm number of tables on registration form. See Grand Sale Agreement Info)

Get ready for the most awesome sale of willow you'll ever see! An entire room filled with blue and white – and other colors as well – and it's all for sale. Shop the many tables of fabulous pieces of willow and find something special to add to your collection!

Christmas in July Gift Exchange (So we can allow proper space, confirm participation on registration form)

Merry Christmas, everyone! Join this convention favorite by bringing a wrapped or bagged willow gift with a minimum value of \$25. Be sure to include a “From’ tag on your gift so the recipient knows whom to thank.

IWC Dinner Banquet

We're planning a special evening just for you as we bring our convention to a close. We'll celebrate a fun and fabulous convention, our new willow treasures and, most of all, all our willow friendships. We'll draw winners for our special raffles and enjoy some after-dinner entertainment.

Please note: Events and order are subject to change. 5

2026 IWC CONVENTION TOUR

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EXCURSION....

SHAKER VILLAGE OF PLEASANT HILL

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 • 8:15am - 3:45pm

\$89 PER PERSON

(includes transportation, tour, lunch and choice of one craft)

OPEN TO ALL ATTENDING MEMBERS AND GUESTS
SEATS ARE LIMITED

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill is more than a destination; it's a place to reconnect with the past, the land and your sense of wonder. Located in Harrodsburg, KY, it is Kentucky's largest National Historical Landmark. There's no better way to start our tour and maximize our views of Shaker Village's 3,000 acres than to take an hour-long tractor-pulled wagon ride! An interpreter will provide a narrated program as we traverse the rolling hills of Central Kentucky in style. Next we have an hour to visit exhibits and gift shops that are in the heart of the Village (minimal walking required). Lunch will be at the Trustee's Table in the Village. After lunch, choose from one of two craft workshops:

1) **TURKEY WING BROOM:** Explore the natural materials that the Shakers used to make their brooms. A "turkey wing" broom, made of hemp cord and natural broomcorn, is as decorative as it is useful. (Guests should be aware that this workshop involves visual acuity, fine-motor control, and the ability to securely hold and grip materials.)

OR:

2) **HONEY and DIPPED BEESWAX CANDLES:** During Pleasant Hill's hey-day, the Shakers cultivated dozens of beehives, valuing the bees both for their important role as pollinators and for their production of honey and wax. Learn about Shaker Village's continuation of this long tradition, including sampling some honey from the hives, before making your own candles over an open fire. (No experience necessary. Guests should be aware that this workshop involves standing/walking, the ability to hold and grip materials, and exposure to smoke.)

Specify your craft choice on the registration form. Either craft will be a great memento of your time in the Village and will easily fit in a suitcase! Head back to hotel around 3pm. It's a 45 minute ride to the hotel.

If you want to visit Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill by yourself, please be aware it offers limited handicap accessibility, with some accessible buildings and trails, but many areas feature uneven, historic gravel paths and steps. The Trustees' Table (with lift), Carpenters' Shop Craft Store (ramp), Centre Family Dwelling Cellar, East Family Dwelling Cellar, and some outdoor areas are accessible.



2026 GRAND SALE AGREEMENT

This year we are combining the Flea Market and Grand Sale, allowing any priced willow items to be sold. By submitting your registration and paying for tables in the 2026 Grand Sale you agree and understand that such steps act as your consenting signature and binding to the terms outlined below.

I have read, understand and agree to all of the conditions as follows. I understand that any violation of agreement may jeopardize any future participation.

(I/We) apply for Grand Sale space at the 41st Annual IWC Convention, to be held on Saturday, July 11, 2026. (I/We) certify that (I/We) are the owner of all the listed goods, merchandise and/or property and hold good title and the right to sell.

(I/We) further certify that the listed goods are free from all encumbrances. (I/We) agree to hold harmless IWC, Double-Tree Suites by Hilton Hotel, and all representatives of this organization, for any damage, loss or claims of the nature referred to in this agreement.

Tables are 72" x 30"

Sale tables are \$25 each.

All tables must be paid for in advance on registration form.

GRAND SALE SCHEDULE, SATURDAY, JULY 11:

SET-UP 7:00-9:00am

SALE 9:00-11:30am for attendees, 10:00-11:30am for public

TEAR-DOWN 11:30am-12:30pm

(I/We) agree to the following:

1. All items offered for sale will be willow or willow-related.
2. Each item will be clearly priced.
3. Sellers are required to remain set-up during the entire length of the sale, unless called by chair.
4. Seller is responsible for any and all insurance coverage whether for liability, loss, damage, or theft. No insurance will be carried for those purposes by the hotel or the sponsors of the convention.
5. Seller will release the International Willow Collectors, its officers and members, and host hotel from any and all claims from liability, loss, damage or theft which may arise during the convention.

2026 AUCTION AGREEMENT

Please Note: By submitting your registration and consigning items in the 2026 Auction, you agree and understand that such steps act as your consenting signature and binding to the terms outlined below.

WILLOW AUCTION

If you wish to participate in the International Willow Collectors Convention Willow Auction, please use the Consignment Form to list all of the items you wish to place for sale in the auction. All items must be willow or willow-related. Twenty percent (20%) of the selling price of each lot will go to the IWC Convention. If you wish to donate an item, this will be greatly appreciated and will also go directly to the IWC Convention. IWC reserves the right to determine the number of lots in the auction and may refuse any item that is submitted and determined not suitable for the auction.

Note: Consignors will receive their net proceeds by the end of convention.

(I/We) commission International Willow Collectors (IWC) to sell the items listed on the Consignment List form to the highest bidder, at the 2026 International Willow Collectors Willow Auction, Thursday, July 9, 2026.

(I/We) certify that (I/We) are the owner of all the listed goods, merchandise and/or property and hold good title and the right to sell.

(I/We) further certify that the listed goods are free from all encumbrances. (I/We) agree to hold harmless the Auctioneer(s), the IWC Convention Chair(s), DoubleTree Hotel, and all representatives of this organization, for any damage, loss or claims of the nature referred to in this agreement.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Please do not send your auction items, but instead send your completed Consignment List to Jeff Siptak as noted on the form. Once received, all items will be assigned lot numbers and we will send you numbered stickers to affix on your items. Then bring your items to the convention. It is imperative that you prepare and return your list of items, whether you consign or donate items, so that we can have enough time to prepare the lot numbers and listing of items in the program.

**Mail the Auction Consignment List form (next page) by June 1 to:
Jeff Siptak / 805 Walden Dr. / Franklin, TN 37064**

If you should have any questions concerning the auction items or the process, contact Jeff.

2026 IWC CONVENTION MENU

Here is the planned menu for our convention. If you have special dietary restrictions, please make note of them on the registration form, as well as let Nancee or Jeff know when you arrive at the convention. This menu is offered so you can notify us of any meals where you will need accommodation from the hotel kitchen. The hotel will do its best to meet your needs.

Wednesday Reception Buffet

Oven roasted chicken
Roasted pork tenderloin w/apple chutney
Mixed green salad with tomato and bacon
Fruit salad
Oven roasted seasoned potatoes
Country green beans
Chocolate triple mousse cake
Bourbon butter layered cake

Thursday Deli Lunch Buffet

Soup du jour
Pasta salad
Assorted deli style meats and cheeses
Deluxe relish tray
Chef selection of desserts

Thursday Supper Buffet

Grilled chicken asiago
Homemade meatloaf
Garden salad
Potato salad
Broccoli casserole
Sweet potato casserole
Assorted cobblers
Turtle cheesecake

Friday Lunch Taste of Italy Buffet

Homemade baked meat lasagna
Pasta with alfredo sauce and seasoned chicken breast
Italian roasted veggies
Garlic bread
Tiramisu

Friday Supper Buffet

Garden salad
Coleslaw
Fried catfish strips
Barbecue ribs
Mashed potatoes
Fresh mixed greens
Homemade macaroni and cheese
Barbecue beans
Homemade bread pudding with bourbon caramel sauce
Pecan pie with chocolate chips

Saturday Lunch Mexican Fiesta Buffet

Flour tortillas and corn taco shells
Lettuce, shredded cheese, diced tomatoes, onions, green peppers, jalapeños, sour cream, and salsa
Steak fajitas
Chicken fajitas
Spanish rice
Refried beans
Jalapeño cornbread
Churros dusted with sugar and cinnamon

Saturday Banquet Buffet

Flat iron steak with caramelized onions
Bourbon glazed salmon
Fried chicken
Caesar Salad
Fruit Salad
Potato au gratin
Roasted garlic and parmesan cauliflower
Country green beans
Carrot cake
Assorted cheesecake

IWC CONVENTION CANCELLATION POLICY

Please keep for your records.

IWC Cancellation Policy, as adopted by the IWC Board of Directors, July, 2008

The convention chair(s) will calculate the appropriate dates for his/her convention and publish the refund schedule and cancellation phone number(s) in the registration packet.

- There will be a refund of the registration fee given if the convention chair(s) is notified on or before the early registration deadline.
 - For cancellations made after the early registration deadline date and no later than two weeks prior to the start of the convention, a refund of all registration fees minus a \$50 cancellation fee PER EACH REGISTRANT will be given.
 - NO refunds will be issued for cancellations made two weeks or less prior to the start of the convention.
- Convention registration fees will be refunded according to the following schedule:

Cancellations made on for before May 1.....	Full Refund
Cancellations made May 2 through June 24.....	Refund, minus \$50.00 per person
Cancellations made June 25 and after.....	No Refund

We are very sorry, but no exceptions can be made.

Due to possible errors and delays when using emails and/or U.S. mail, cancellations must be made by telephone to the convention chair(s) or when the convention chair cannot be reached, the alternate name listed.

A verbal confirmation by one of the following individuals is required. Appropriate documentation will be made of the refund on the registration form.

Here are the contacts for 2026 convention cancellations:

Nancee Rogers: 513-527-4540

Jeff Siptak: 615-330-8308