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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Hoosier Honored with National Garden Clubs' Highest Award

*Crown Hill Cemetery's Arboretum Director, Carrie Tauscher, Receives the Non-Member Award of Excellence*

**CHARLESTON, SC (Wednesday, May 21, 2025)** – Last night, National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) presented their Non-Member Award of Excellence to Indiana's own Carrie Tauscher, Arboretum Director at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. Tauscher's nomination was sponsored by The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc, and is the highest NGC non-member award given to an individual, organization or institution that has made a significant contribution toward the advancement of goals and purposes of National Garden Clubs.



Tauscher has been instrumental in helping Crown Hill Cemetery to achieve its accreditation as a Level II Arboretum. A frequent speaker at The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. (TGCI) events, she has inspired many with her love of trees and commitment to educating others about trees and specifically the collection at Crown Hill. Following the awards ceremony, TGCI President Wanda Zahrt said, "We were thrilled to sponsor Carrie for this award. She is everything we could ask for in the people who are inspiring others to care about the natural world – a great educator, fabulous speaker, and her energy is magnetic."

Tauscher began her career at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, one of the largest arboreta in the United States, as an inventory technician. She continued with the Community Trees Program at the arboretum, working with municipal urban forestry programs and green industry partners in the Chicagoland region. She was administrator of the Illinois Urban Wood Utilization Team before coming to Indiana in 2012. She also served as the program coordinator for the Indiana DNR Community and Urban Forestry (CUF). Carrie holds degrees from Iowa State University in horticulture and landscape architecture. She is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist with Tree Risk Assessment (TRAQ) qualifications. She is a past president of the Indiana Arborist Association, a Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). She also serves on the Board of Directors for Saluting Branches, a National Day of Service organization supporting arborists across the U.S. who are focusing on the care of trees in cemeteries and sites that serve our veterans and their families.

"I am grateful to represent the hard work and dedication of thousands of arborists who are dedicated to serving sites that serve our veterans and their families through Saluting Branches National Day of Service," said Tauscher. She added, "It really is an industry-wide day where we use our unique skills as arborists to show our appreciation. I can't make that happen alone. It takes all of us to make an impact."

The National Convention of NGC continues through the end of the week. Zahrt says, "We are so proud of Carrie. The work that she does is so important to Indiana. We look forward to working with her more in the future."

The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. is a non-profit educational organization formed in 1930, and a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. With 47 clubs across the state, TGCI's mission is to promote interest and education in horticulture, landscaping, floral design and environmental concerns. For more information, visit their website at [GardenClubofIndiana.org](http://GardenClubofIndiana.org).