

Kentucky Governor's Mansion
Proven Winners Signature Garden
Draft Press Release Copy
2.4.14



The Kentucky Governor's Mansion was recently announced as a Proven Winners Signature Garden. One of only six prestigious designations, Kentucky's Governor's Mansion joins Mackinac Island's Hotel Iroquois, Charlotte's Duke Mansion, The Grand Tradition Estate and Gardens in California, Meadow Brook Hall in Michigan, and the Governor's Mansion in Illinois with this distinction. Serving as home to the state's governors since 1914, it is a proud symbol of Kentucky's history, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Collaborating with Proven Winners at Kentucky's Governor's Mansion is Kentucky native, Jon Carloftis, award-winning garden designer, garden writer, television guest, author, and lecturer. Jon is the owner of the Rockcastle River Trading Company, a popular home and garden store located on his family's property in Livingston, Kentucky. The beautiful gardens, designed by Jon, that surround the Carloftis home and store have been featured in *BMW Magazine*, *Country Home*, *Garden & Gun*, *Outdoor Rooms*, and *Southern Living*. Jon is the author of *Beautiful Gardens of Kentucky*, *Beyond the Windowsill*, and *First a Garden*.

The Proven Winners Signature Garden collaboration represents a continuation of Jon's efforts to further beautify the grounds of the Mansion and Capital. "It is our goal to enhance the beautiful gardens of our state Governor's Mansion so that all visitors will share in the pride of

our state” said Ann Evans, executive director of the Kentucky Governor’s mansion.

“The way we are going to share that pride with all of the citizens will be to host a Grand Garden Party on the mansion grounds called the “Summer Solstice Garden Celebration” on Saturday June 21, 2014. The daylong celebration will include food and drinks that are special to the state as well as behind the scene tours of the different gardens that make the mansion so special. There will be guest lectures by world class horticulturist from across the state to share what makes the gardens in our state special.“

The Governor's Mansion is both a private home and a public building. It serves as the center of the first family's ceremonial, social and political activities. Kentucky's Governor's Mansion is one of only a handful of executive residences in the United States to be open to the public for tours. Thousands of visitors from across the Commonwealth and around the world visit the Governor's Mansion every year.

The current garden layout was taken from the original garden plans drawn during the 1912 construction and planning phase. Complementing existing plant beds will be such varieties as Diamond Frost Euphorbia, Goldilocks Bidens, and Senorita Rosalita Cleome. Several major plantings will also extend onto the grounds of the adjoining Capital.

Proven Winners is the nation’s #1 plant brand, continually introducing the best, most unique, high performing plants under the highest quality standards. Each Proven Winners Signature Garden represents an elite group of exclusive properties committed to high standards of landscaped gardens, providing the opportunity to showcase the extraordinary performance of Proven Winners plants in the landscape.

For more information about events, go to: www.provenwinners.com , www.joncarloftis.com , and **government site TBD**