



Worldwide Circus Summit 2015

July 14-18, 2015 • West Springfield, MA USA
Circus ... Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Time to Commit. Time to step right up and buy that ducat!

Advance registration savings will go away in less than 14 days!

Save \$20 by **registering quickly to obtain the \$85 WCS rate**: The current \$85 advance registration fee lasts only through May 30. After that, it goes up to \$105 through July 13. The on-site registration fee is \$120. Circus youth and their leaders and parents pay only \$15 at all times but need to register. Registrants should make hotel reservations separately. Information is available on the [WCS web site](#). The allotted rooms are going quickly, so get your room while they last.

Before you read what's new, take a look at this entertaining World Circus Summit [promotional video](#), courtesy of **Lane Talburt**, that features WCS Entertainment Director **Joe Barney** and super clown **Pat Cashin!**

Here are the latest additions to this amazing, once-in-a-lifetime circus experience:

WCS entertainment director **Joe Barney** has announced the addition of two premiere clowns, **Elmo Gibbs** and **Chuck Burnes**, Cole Bros. ringmaster **Chris Connors**, and a traditional and magical old-time flea circus presented by **Bob Yorburg** to the ever-growing line-up of performers and speakers during this five-day extravaganza. Also, WCS director **Lane Talburt** has announced the inaugural series of presentations focusing on circus photography. Ten American and international photographers will have their creative works displayed from Wednesday through Saturday in the Better Living Center on the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds. The names of the photographers will be announced soon on the [WCS web site](#).

Don't go home too soon! Two Circus Smirkus performances have been scheduled for Sunday, July 19, so if you have already made your plans to leave Saturday or Sunday morning, you may want to reconsider so you can enjoy this incredible circus experience! Also, if you plan to attend, you are encouraged to purchase your discounted tickets now and not wait until the day of the performance. You may be disappointed. Both shows are open to the general public and we hear they go fast. The tickets are good for either show on Sunday, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. **Buy Now**. Note: Circus Smirkus performances will not be held at the Eastern States Exposition, but in South Windsor, CT, a 30 minute drive from the WCS2015 site. Transportation will not be provided. Directions to the site can be found on the [Circus Smirkus website](#).



Special discounted tickets (\$17 for adults and children) are available for both circus performances. (That's a \$4 savings off regular tickets, plus you'll save another \$3 due to no online service charges.) All

discounted tickets for Summit attendees are to be purchased through Sara Wunderle, assistant circus operation director, by telephone (802-533-7443 x27) or by email (tour@smirkus.org) Tickets will not be available through the Circus Smirkus web site nor will they be mailed. They may be picked up at “will call” one hour before each performance and please make sure you take your receipt for the ticket purchase. In order to be seated in a special reserved section, WCS ticket holders are encouraged to be at the circus marquee no later than 15 minutes prior to the performance.

If Sara is not readily available to answer your call or if you call after hours, please leave your name and how many tickets you want and for which performance. Leave contact info and she will connect with you to complete your purchase.

Summit attendees who do not have cars are encouraged to carpool with others to the performance site. Theme of this year’s Circus Smirkus tour is “Bon Appetit!”

Cole Bros. Circus, the official WCS circus will offer the first of three public performances at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, on the WCS2015 site (Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds). **Note that this is a date change.** A concert by nearly 100 members of the **Windjammers Unlimited** concert band will start under the big top at 6 p.m., followed immediately by the circus performance. Don’t miss it! Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$14 for children for all three performances— additional shows are scheduled for 4:30



and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 16. Circus fans who have seen this year’s show are telling us that this Cole Bros. presentation is one of owner John Pugh’s very best. Tickets for the July 15 performance may be purchased via the [WCS web site.](#)

At 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15 on the midway, an old-fashioned, professional **10-in-One Sideshow** will commence under the Commerford canvas. The continuous free performances, or the “grind” in sideshow terms, will continue until the whistle blows and the circus performance begins under the big top. The names of the top-notch performers will be announced in mid-June. This is something you will not want to miss!

Tickets are still available for the **CHS luncheon** featuring **Barry “Grandma” Lubin** and for the **CFA banquet** honoring **John Pugh** for his many years as a performer and owner of “America’s largest circus under the big top.”

As the advance registration period for the Summit is fast approaching, so is the deadline to place an advertisement in the **collectible souvenir program**. To include your organizations or your own personal message of congratulations, or advertise your product or event, you must act quickly. Contact Barb Moore by using the [link on the web site](#). Remember, June 1 is the deadline and space is still available.

First Time Ever (Really) Enquirer Exhibit & Sale!

The circus has long loved hype and excitement and the use of the line "First Time EVER." However, our event will, for the first time EVER feature an opportunity for fans and collectors to purchase true circus memorabilia and materials associated with circus advertising. The Enquirer Printing Company, among the largest printers of circus posters in the world, has discovered a cache of posters and items associated with the business and will begin their liquidation of this material at WCS2015. Find the large Enquirer display, along with many other vendors, and a few more "First Time EVER" opportunities at our Exhibition Hall. Remember - your convention identification is required.



Just in Case you've missed our Past Missives. At a Glance: A WCS2015 Review in a Nutshell

The theme of ***Worldwide Circus Summit 2015*** is ***Circus: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*** and through a series of seminars, presentations and workshops facilitated by leading circus historians, scholars, executives, researchers and professionals from around the world, summit attendees will be presented an unprecedented perspective on the importance of circus and circus arts as global cultural icons. The program of thought-provoking inspirational, educational and motivational events will be included in the registration fee for every Summit attendee.

What exactly is WCS2015? Glad you asked. On Tuesday, July 14, 2015, representatives from more than 50 circus-related organizations from around the world will gather at the ***Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds*** (the Big E) in West Springfield, MA. We're calling it "*the largest gathering of circus friends ever assembled!*" (And that ain't circus hyperbole friends.)

In addition to a performance by ***Cole Bros. Circus***, a concert by the ***Windjammers***, a unique ***Sideshow*** presented the old-fashioned way – under canvas, ***All-Star Circus*** individual presentations, a ***Youth Circus Showcase***, ***Circus Smirkus*** in nearby Connecticut, and words of circus wisdom by ***Ringling's Ringmaster Johnathan Lee Iverson***, there are plenty of other circus-related activities and nearby shows designed to entice "children of all ages!"



Legends galore will tell their tall tales and stories as they remember them in special sessions aptly entitled ***Jackpot Junction***. Sit in on live interviews with circus legends as they discuss their lives under the Big Top, including the ***King of the Sideshow Ward Hall***, 1950s ***Ringling Bros.*** showgirl and aerial ballerina ***Terry Abbott***, veteran ***Circus Flora*** performer ***Cecil "Yo-Yo the Narrator" MacKinnon***, ***Circus Smirkus*** founder and Marcel Marceau disciple ***Rob Mermin***, ***E. James Strates*** of ***Strates Shows*** and ***Kathleen Maher*** of ***The Barnum Museum***, among others.

An unprecedented gathering of circus owner/managers will discuss the rewards and challenges facing circus management in the 21st century in the **Circus Director's Forum**.

Close out each day watching films and videos, many of which have never been seen before by circus fans. Topics of each will cover the spectrum of the WCS2015 theme of **Circus: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**. These are randomly selected (and finely curated) circus films and videos produced by independent film makers and circus aficionados, including **Circus World Culture** (Angela Snow), **The Circus According to Cecil** (Marta Renzi), **Kelly Miller Circus: A World of Difference** (Lane Talburt), **May All Your Days Be . . .** (Bruce Johnson) and **Circus Acts for Children of All Ages** (Richard Czina). Other titles will be added to this amazing schedule.

World Circus Federation Executive Director **Laura van der Meer** will speak on the federation's initiatives to promote circus arts and culture worldwide.

European Circus Association Managing Director **Helmut Grosscurth** will discuss the status of contemporary circus in Europe and its parallels to twenty-first century American circus.

And YES, of course you can buy things! Plenty of "things." At the **Circus Collectibles Auctions** you can bid on "never-before-presented" circus collectibles and memorabilia hosted by the **Circus Historical Society** and **Circus Fans Association of America**. In the **Circus Sales Room** you'll be able to pick up lithographs, memorabilia, the latest books, and circus-related souvenirs and gifts for yourself or circus friends.

A Bevy of Beautiful Models will be on display. At the **Circus Models and Costume Exhibit** you can check out miniature circus models built by members of **Circus Model Builders** and **Dom Yodice's** expanded collection of authentic costumes and memorabilia from the movie classic "**The Greatest Show on Earth**" in the 123,000-sq.ft. air-conditioned Exhibition Hall.

Carousel Organ Demonstrations will provide traditional circus and fairground music, all created by an assortment of band organs provided by the **Carousel Organ Association of America**.

We all should Praise the Lord that we have the CIRCUS! If you are so inclined, you can join the **Circus and Traveling Shows Ministry (C.A.T.S.)** for a non-denominational worship service open to all Summit attendees.

Create your own jackpots in our **Hospitality Tent** where you can meet old friends and make new ones over food and refreshments while planning your day with the "Daily Summit Update" sponsored by **The Circus Report**.

Don't forget to support you favorite group by planning to attend its Annual Banquet! Summit attendees are invited to participate in the **Circus Historical Society's** annual feat featuring guest speaker **Barry "Grandma" Lubin** and the **Circus Fans Association of America's** banquet featuring Cole Bros. owner **John Pugh** (NOTE: limited seating and additional costs).

Clusters of clowns everywhere! **Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey** will hold official auditions for professional clowns for **The Greatest Show On Earth**, plus there will be a great clown presence from **Clowns of America** and the **World Clown Association!**

Things are being added and fine-tuned every day, all of which will be posted on our [web site](#). Please check back often.

Coming Next Month: In mid-June you will be receiving another email update from us containing the latest additions to the greatest circus party EVER, as well as a ***Guide to Attending the WCS2015***. Stay tuned!

WCS2015.com