

Phila. Flower Show Visitors Get Sneak Peek At Spring

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Lancaster Farming Staff

PHILADELPHIA — Visitors to this year's Philadelphia Flower Show were transported to a variety of places: a flourishing tulip garden somewhere in Holland, a butterfly grotto, a spunky "rubber tire waterfall," even a New York City skyline apartment where King Kong reaches in to grab a vase.

They didn't have to travel very far: a short distance away from an 8-foot arbor garden on the floor of the converted-to-spring downtown Convention Center was the majestic polished pewter globe mounted with people of all lands and suspended 27 feet overhead. The sculpture rested atop a massive reflecting pool and beckoned visitors to a display staged by The Women's Ikebana Society of Japan.

Down the way from the virtual "sea" of multicolored tulips was the Tyre Waterfall, nicknamed Tyres By Styers from a nursery in Concordville.

The show this year fit the theme "The Great Exchange: People, Places, and Plants." You didn't have to walk far with the thousands

of visitors to see lots of things that would be hard to find anywhere in central or southeastern Pennsylvania:

- Flower bulbs of many kind were arranged in an island imported from Holland. The design included 50,000 flowers (80 varieties of tulips alone), hyacinths, daffodils, and other flowers from the International Flower Bulb Center, Hillegam, Netherlands. Of course, included was a 400-year-old thatched windmill.

- A "Child's First Garden" display provided by the Hort Academy and Abraham Lincoln High School, Philadelphia, included all sorts of plants and arrangements among the play blocks.

- A butterfly exhibit was arranged by the Zoological Society of Philadelphia which included information about the life cycle of a butterfly.

- A tire waterfall exhibit was entitled Tyres By Styers and included other items of "junk" transformed into garden beauty (did we mention the use of a shopping cart as part of a garden?). The display was constructed by J. Franklin Styer Nurseries in

Concordville.

- The Italian region of Liguria, known worldwide for its cut flowers, was captured on a Genoa hillside filled with arrangements by designers Mimma and Aldo Alberti and the International Trade Center. From Belgium, traditional and contemporary flower arranging styles were portrayed by the Belgian Flower Arranging Society.

For visitors looking for imaginative gardening decorating ideas, there was plenty of time to get out the camera and the notebook and inspect the work by gardening professionals. Some of the noteworthy items on display included:

- A corner bed fashioned by F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company, Stamford, Ct. The centerpiece of the bed included a flowering white dogwood. The top crown of flowers included violet Roseum Elegans Rhododendrons. The bottom crown included ruby red Lavender impatiens.

- A flowerbed created by Stoney Brook Nursery in Glen Mills featured a centerpiece of a white latticed perch holding a simple bird house. The bed featured an Ever Red Japanese Maple. The

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"Three Maypoles and a Maiden" was a joint exhibit by the Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades, Media, and The Pershore College of Horticulture, Pershore, Worcestershire, England. One fine piece of the display included a corner bed/stone wall with a center of pink Hybrid Rhododendrons and bottomed by Hardy Geranium Plantainlily, centered by an evergreen.



Tulips and hyacinths were the most common flowers throughout the show. One included a raised bed of tulips, Christmas Dream Tulips in silver pink and below them, China Pink hyacinths that were frosty pink and fragrant.



Stoney Brook also had a simple birdbath flower bed featured a pea green, sundial-type bath surrounded with Husker's Red Digitalis and lots of Hosta (plantain lily).



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Homestead Notes