

World's Garden Greats Debut At Philadelphia Flower Show

PHILADELPHIA — Two gilded Sphinxes stand guard and support a massive Egyptian gate at the 2001 Philadelphia Flower Show's presentation of "Great Gardeners of the World," March 4-11, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Ten acres of blooming backyards, front yards, terraces, side yards, streetscapes and sunrooms beckon everyone to the start of the spring gardening season. Major exhibitors from throughout the region have forced, prodded and primped their plants to perfection and provide visitors with exceptional garden designs for the new century. Tradition and New Age unite throughout the exhibition hall with more than 60 magnificent presentations by the region's most talented landscapers, florists, and horticultural institutions. Winterthur (DE) celebrates 50 years and debuts its new Enchanted Garden set to open officially in June, 2001; W. Atlee Burpee Seed Company (PA) celebrates 125 years and explores new territory with perennials and Bartlett Tree Experts (CT) provides a new Asian fusion style of design complete with Chinese tea room and fragrant lilac bamboo forest.

For the indoor gardener, the Show offers more than 2,000 examples of plants, collections, designs and flower arrangements in its Competitive Class division. Amateurs from throughout the world enter their creations into a competition that is judged throughout Show week. Ribbons and medals are presented in most categories on the Show's first weekend along with trophies



Philadelphia Flower Show offers 10 acres of blooming perfection at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, March 4-11.

for the major garden displays. Visitors who come to the Show on multiple days are treated to ever changing artistic floral entries and new winners in the horticultural competition as well as an endless parade of exceptional speakers in free sessions held all week.

Home gardeners and nursery professionals will find all their answers and pose new questions throughout the Main Exhibition Hall in the lively, impromptu "Gardener Studios."

Two studios set the stage for daily, simultaneous, hourly presentations by regional experts and offer hands-on demonstrations that include

dividing perennials and the charming art of worm composting along with many other great garden activities. Each session is complete with a question and answer period in a "stand and share" setting. For new homeowners and professionals alike, the best woody ornamental plants on the market are showcased in a special display presented by The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) with support from the Chanticleer Foundation. The PHS Gold Medal Plant Award (c1978) is made annually to recognize excellence among trees and shrubs hardy in the mid-Atlantic region and to encourage home gardeners to use the plants as the cornerstone of their landscape design. The display boasts new 2001 winners, buying guide

and helpful advice from members of the Pennsylvania Landscape Nursery Association. Show "edutainment" is also in full bloom in dozens of free "satellite" activities held daily throughout the 33 acre Convention Center.

Visitors are encouraged to complete their Show experience at the Show Marketplace. With more than 125 vendors, this section of the Show located in the Main Exhibition Hall, brings the garden to the visitor with pots and plants, cut flowers and garden structures, patio furniture and ergonomically correct tools, all of the ingredients to satisfy the most winter-weary among us. Shipping and sturdy tote bags are offered. For those who want to capture the moment forever, a beautifully illustrated Show video, poster and memorabilia are on sale in the "Flower Show Shoppe" in the Main Exhibit Hall. Free official Show floor plan and guide available throughout the venue list sales locations and general Show information.

The Philadelphia Flower Show offers visitors a number of options to extend their stay and visit the massive event over a period of days. Hotels and cultural activities throughout the City have partnered with organizers to create special packages and offers including a discounted two-day Superpass. Working with Amtrak (1-800-USA-RAIL) and Accommodations Express (1-800-380-4683) along with six exceptional hotels, visitors can book their overnight visit to Philadelphia, see the Show, visit museums, take in theatre performances and dine at the nation's most acclaimed restaurants for one exceptional price and lots of value. Visitors should ask for "Flower Show Preferred Hotel Packages" when making reservations.

For day-trippers, the Show offers free, same day re-entry (with hand stamp) and the free Bloom-in' Fun Pass available at the Show or online at www.theflowershow.com. The pass lists city-wide activities tied into Flower Show Week and offers great sightseeing ideas and valuable savings at dozens of Philadelphia's cultural centers, stores and restaurants.

Visitors who plan their trip to the Show in the evening, Monday through Friday, will experience less crowding. The Show is open Monday through Saturday until

9:30 p.m. Box office closes one hour before Show closing on all days.

Adult ticket prices at the Box Office are: (Opening Day), Sunday, March 4, \$24. Monday through Friday, March 5-9, \$20. Saturday and Sunday, March 10 and 11, \$22. Tickets for children 2-12 are \$10 any day. Groups pay \$17.50 any day (minimum order is 20 adult tickets). Show hours are Sundays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 10, 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

Complete Show information is available at www.theflowershow.com or (215) 988-8899 for extensive recorded information.

Lancaster Farming
Antiques Center
See pages B27-B32



Berks Society 1

The Pleasantville Diner, Oley, served as the meeting place for Berks County Society of Farm Women, Group #1. Twelve members answered roll call to a question put forth to them pertaining to Valentine's Day.

Spring Rally date May 16 at Yoder's in New Holland and Bingo events scheduled for Berks Heim were among the concerns addressed at this time.

Our group was asked if members would help sponsor the Corn Cob Throwing Contest to be held at the Reading Fair. It was the consensus of the group to participate. Members will also be participating in the Oley Valley Graduation Bash held annually by the district during prom season.

After the meeting, valentines that arrived in brown paper bags were distributed to members. Contents ranged in variety from ketchup to flowers!

Next meeting scheduled for March 14 at the home of Donna Haas, Douglassville.

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