

Second Annual Pennsylvania Garden Expo In March 2004

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Now four days, the second annual Pennsylvania Garden Expo will take place March 11-14 in the new state-of-the-art 175,000-square-foot Exposition Hall of the Harrisburg Farm Show Complex.

This year's show will again

Pa. Maple Syrup Production Down

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania's 2003 maple syrup production is estimated at 48,000 gallons, down 13 percent from last year's production of 55,000 gallons, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. The value of the syrup produced in 2002 is estimated at \$1.47 million, down from the \$1.75 million in the year 2001.

The number of taps in Pennsylvania totaled 364,000 during 2003 compared with 337,000 taps the year before. Pennsylvania's yield for the year 2003 averaged 0.132 gallons per tap, down from the 0.163 gallons per tap last

feature about 20 flowering walk-through gardens designed by top central Pennsylvania landscapers and nurseries. A total of 40 master gardeners, landscapers, and horticultural professionals will conduct "how-to" seminars and demonstrations on making gardening easier and more enjoya-

ble. The show will also feature a marketplace and exhibits by garden clubs and plant societies. Roger Swain, host of WHTM-TV's "People, Place, and Plants" and best known as the "man in the red suspenders" will be among the speakers on March 12-13. Among the walk-through gardens scheduled are a bonsai garden, a children's garden, a natural-habitat garden, and a railway garden. Many gardens feature a water element.

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The numerous vendors in the marketplace will be selling everything from lawn services to live plants and gardening.

The expo is being put together by the non-profit Pennsylvania Green Industry Foundation, Inc., along with co-participant the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Current sponsors include ABC27 and Weis Markets.

Proceeds from the pre-show Gala, the Expo itself, and the Plant Auction on March 14 will benefit the beautification of Harrisburg.

Terry Bush, director of Pennsylvania Green Industry Foundation, said, "we are excited about a show like this. Gardening is already the nation's No. 1 outdoor activity, and it's becoming more and more popular each year."

Bush said applications are still being accepted from vendors interested in taking part in the expo.

More information on the show itself is available by calling (717) 796-1181, e-mailing pagardenexpo@comcast.net, or visiting www.pagardenexpo.com.

PCO Annual Meeting Set For Dec. 10

MILLERSTOWN (Perry Co.) — Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) will conduct its annual meeting Dec. 10 at the Perry Valley Grange Hall, Millerstown, from 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Cheryl Cook, Pennsylvania deputy secretary of agriculture, will be the featured speaker.

The day will include organic standards workshops, speakers, outstanding volunteer awards, and a homemade family-style supper.

Agenda

- 1 p.m. - Registration and introductions, brief standards update.
- 1:30 p.m. - Inspection and recordkeeping tips.
- 2 p.m. - Ask PCO: Staff will be available to answer questions about organic standards and PCO procedures. This is an opportunity to discuss concerns and make suggestions for improvement.

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- 2:30 - Soil and animal nutrition. Bring soil tests along to discuss with the experts.

- 3:15 - Break.

- 3:30 - Organic farmers exchange

- 4:30 - Cheryl Cook, deputy secretary of agriculture for marketing and economic development, "Opportunities for Organic Farmers in Pennsylvania."

- 5 p.m. - Break
- 5:30 p.m. - Business meeting: committee reports, bylaws changes, and board elections.

- 6:30 p.m. - Awards.

- 7 p.m. - Dinner and social hour.

Workshops and annual meeting are free for PCO members

and guests. Banquet meals are charged as follows: PCO certified, supporting and business members receive two free meals; associate members receive one free meal; nonmembers pay \$12 for adults; \$6 for children 12 and under.

To register, contact PCO as soon as possible by phone at (814) 364-1344, fax at (814) 364-4431, or e-mail www.paorganic.org.

PCO seeks volunteer gift box contributions. To participate, donate 24 items for "thank you boxes" given as awards to PCO's indispensable volunteers. Contributors' names will be announced during the awards presentation.

Go Out On Limb To Care For Trees

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The most important steps in caring for a young tree start before you buy the tree, according to a community forestry expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"The crucial part of picking a tree is matching a tree to the spot you've picked out," said Bill El-

compaction, presence of sun or shade, and moisture.

Pick a tree that is tolerant of the conditions and can adapt easily to the site.

When buying the tree, spend as much time as possible checking for damage, disease or quality problems. Don't buy a tree because it's on sale.

mendorf, assistant professor of urban and community forestry in the School of Forest Resources.

Think carefully about the color, size and branching shape of a tree before choosing a planting site. Examine the site conditions for soil pH, soil

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