

FLOWER POWER

Celebrate spring at the Md. Home and Garden Show

By Lindsay Stroh
Examiner Correspondent

It may be cold and windy outside, but springtime is already in bloom this weekend at the Maryland Home and Garden Show in Timonium.

The main building at the State Fairgrounds has been transformed into colorful gardens with patios, fountains and waterfalls.

Visitors can wander along winding paths where tulips, daffodils, azaleas, hyacinth and irises offer a colorful panorama.

"The displays are spectacular. It's a great place to gather ideas for your own garden," said Jay Plummer, vice president of S&L Productions. "The show offers the opportunity to talk with gardening, landscaping and building professionals, see their exhibits and attend educational presentations all in one location."

"Springtime Around the World" is this year's theme.

Primroses bloom in a pristine English garden, and a few steps away, bougainvillea trails from Roman urns in a Mediterranean setting.

An Okami cherry tree in blossom and a Koi fish pond give an Oriental flavor, and dainty tête-à-têtes bloom by a mountain stream.

At each exhibit and in the Green Thumb Theater, horticulturists and other experts offer advice on how to create these gardens

IF YOU GO

» Maryland Home & Garden Show and Maryland Spring Craft Show March 9 to 11
» www.mdhomeandgarden.com or 410-863-1180 for ticket information.

in Maryland.

A blue ribbon adorns the Kingsdene Nurseries exhibit, which has earned Best of Show in the retail division for several years.

"We spent about 14 hours putting up the arbor and adding different garden themes," co-owners John and Jane Mays said.

Next door is a glorious waterfall with a variety of green plants and spring blossoms, a joint effort of Fox Run Ponds and Kroh's Nursery, also blue ribbon winners.

The Maryland Orchid Society Show and Sale will be held in Horticulture Hall.

"Thousands of orchids will be on display, from hardy terrestrial plants and rare species to the latest hybrids," said Ann Lundy, president of the society. "Look for the blue ribbons to see which orchids won best in show awards. There's even an award for the orchid with the most pleasing aroma. Classes on growing orchids will be held, and the society will provide a culture sheet for each plant sold."

The 2007 show is held in conjunction with the Maryland Spring Craft Show with more than 125 exhibits of handcrafted items.



Above: A Paphiopedilum Springtime Carimo is one of thousands of orchids that will be on display at the Maryland State Fairgrounds this weekend. Bottom left: A purple Paphiopedilum Pinocchio also will be featured. - Lindsay Stroh/For The Examiner



Six native plants win Gold Medal awards

The Irvine Nature Center in Stevenson recently announced the recipients of its inaugural Gold Medal Plants Award for 2007.

These plants were chosen for their uniqueness and usefulness.

To be considered, they had to be native to Maryland, relatively easy to grow, able to tolerate a variety of conditions, be available locally for purchase and have

proven wildlife value.

This award represents six primary plant types: tree, shrub, grass, vine, wildflower and fern.

The winners are:

» **Tree:** Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)

» **Shrub:** Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)

» **Grass:** Switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*)

» **Vine:** Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

» **Wildflower:** White turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)

» **Fern:** Cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)

The center will have all of these plants for sale as part of its Spring Native Plant Sale, which begins on April 20.

The Irvine Nature Center is an environmental education facility that offers programs, field trips and events for students and adults. - Malcolm Favor



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