

# See duck races, waterfalls and great ideas at show

Where can you find an indoor cascading waterfall, river, topiary zoo, duck races, thousands of products and services for the home and garden, prizes and more under one roof?

It's not too good to be true — it's the 77th annual International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show, coming to the Cobo Conference-Exhibition Center. Over 400 exhibitors convene at the show making it a clinch for homeowners to gather hundreds of fresh ideas for the home and garden which can be found by perusing nearly 10 football fields worth of exhibit space. To reverse an old saying, showgoers will find everything including the kitchen sink at this extravaganza.

Special highlights at the show include a 15-foot high cascading waterfall which showgoers can walk under, a 400-foot long horseshoe shaped river and lavish surrounding gardens, including a topiary zoo, created by the Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association (MDLA) and sponsored by Detroit Edison and Temo Sunrooms & Spas.

Duck races each night sponsored by the Rotary International District 6400 will benefit Easter Seals of Southeastern Michigan and Easter Seals of Canada.

Nearly two football fields worth of professionally landscaped gardens will enchant showgoers with the sounds of chirping crickets and babbling brooks, and the sight of colorful water fountains and dancing butterflies, as they pass through cedar gazebos and walk along brick paver pathways. Some 1,500 trees and shrubs and thousands of brilliant flowers come to life in these gardens which will transport showgoers into a world of beauty.

WXYZ's Ask the Handyman Glenn Haeger will be there on March 18-19 and 25-26 broadcasting live from the show and answering homeowners' questions.

Expert demonstrations on gardening, decorating and remodeling will be given throughout the show. Mad Dog & Merrill will demonstrate how to grill foods such as vegetables, meats, pizza and desserts (even ice cream!), sponsored by MichCon Gas Company.

Frank's will conduct seminars on

garden oriented crafts, container gardening, easy-care landscaping, gardening techniques and lawn and garden care.

Over 100 of the Detroit area's Professional Allied Florists Association members area shops will display arrangements for the honor of 'Best of Show Award' presented by the Society of American Florists. This year's themes are 'A Study in Nature' dslh gardens, 'Your Special Day' party and 'Trendsetter' arrangements.

Cut flower arrangement demonstrations will be put on by members of the Professional Allied Florists Association. Nationally recognized commentators will inform and educate the audience in flower care and design. On the last day of the show, many of the arrangements entered in the competition will be auctioned off with proceeds going to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The Community Theater located in the garden area will host a Home Buyers Clinic, sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers featuring seminars on moving to a new home or remodeling from members of the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan (BASM), natural gas appliances and heating and cooling products from MichCon Gas Company, financing your dream home from Standard Federal Bank, landscaping tips from the MDLA and instruction on the tools needed and the assembly of a do-it-yourself sunroom from Temo Sunrooms and Spas.

One lucky showgoer will win \$10,000 by correctly estimating the number of nails in the House of Nails contest. The Treasure Chest contest, set up at various locations throughout the show, will award prizes from Farmer Jack, Frank's, Professional Allied Florists Association, MichCon Gas Company and Temo Sunrooms and Spas.

Also, many exhibitors will have contests for prizes. Dancers, musical groups and singers will entertain the crowds.

The Parade of Notable Homes program, which kicks off at the show, will feature pictorial renderings of the area's newest showcase homes built by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan members and a free plan book. The program is sponsored by BASM, Standard Federal Bank and The Detroit News and Free Press Classifieds.

And finally, what show would be complete without a wedding? To prove this point, Pam Pratt of Detroit will wed Marc Perry of Inkster in one of the gardens near the indoor river on March 23 at 4 p.m.

Wedding flowers are being donated by Decker Flowers and Gifts of Westland. The cake is compliments of Farmer Jack, photography by Greg's Portrait Studio of Farmington Hills, tuxedos from President Tuxedo of Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights, limousine service by ACSI Limousine of

Dearborn and the honeymoon night will be spent at the Antheneum Hotel in Detroit. BASM is also sponsor of the third annual Spring Home & Garden Show which ran from February 2-5 and the third annual Fall Remodeling Show at the Novi Expo Center. The Builders Show will be open 2-10 p.m. Monday through Friday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. on Saturdays; and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sundays.

Admission is \$6 for adults; \$4 for seniors and children 6 to 12; and free for children under 6. Family tickets for two adults and accompanying children are available at Farmer Jack for \$9.



Wide variety: More than 400 exhibits are featured at the 77th Annual International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show at Cobo Center March 18-26.



## ANN ARBOR FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

MARCH 23 - 26

THUR - SAT. 9-9. SUN. 9-5

313.998.7002

► Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds I-94 to Exit 175 South to Show

► Advance Tickets \$7 at all Michigan Kroger Stores

► \$8 Adults \$3 Child (4-12) \$7 Senior Days (March 23 & 24)

► \$1 Shuttle Offered from Briarwood Mall S.E. Entrance Exit #177 from I-94

"Reap bushels of ideas, shop for garden gifts or quiz the pros at more than an acre of flourishing landscapes."

Midwest Living Magazine

Presented By:  
University of Michigan  
Matthaei Botanical Gardens

## Best from page 2

Standard Federal Bank and The Detroit News and Expert demonstrations on gardening, decorating and remodeling will be given throughout the show. Over 100 miniature indoor gardens and party and trendsetting floral arrangements will be on display compliments of Professional Allied Florists Association members.

A Home Buyers Clinic, sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, will have seminars on financing, outdoor living spaces, natural gas appliances and products and remodeling. The House of Nails and Treasure Chest contests will award prizes.

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Family tickets for two adults and accompanying children are available at Farmer Jack for \$9. Discount admission coupons were mailed to homeowners in their Consumers Power and Detroit Edison bills. Free admission coupons for Monday, March 20, are available at all Frank's stores.

For more information, call (810) 737-4478.