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BUSINESS

Exhibits, workshops, prizes, advice... Lane Co. Home and Garden Show

by Garde Wells

On Thursday, March 12 at 6 pm, the Lane County Home and Garden Show will come on strong. "For the first time in the last eight years, there will be just one Spring Home and Garden Show," explains Helen Berg, who produces the show that the Home Builders Association of Lane County sponsors.

Just who are the Home Builders Association of Lane County? "The Home Builders Association is a voice for the building industry... because they're all mostly independent contractors," says Berg.

The Home and Garden Show historically draws 30-40,000 people over the weekend, according to promoter Berg—that's more than double what the average turnout was before 1983, which was when the Home Show's admission fee went out the window. The free show will go for two evenings and two days at the Convention Center on West 13th Avenue.

What can one expect at this event? Over 200 exhibitions—including decorating, draperies, floor coverings, weatherization, heating and air conditioning, indoor landscaping, prom and bridal fashions—you name it.

"We have all kinds of things in there," says Berg, "I have financial people in there, some of the stockbrokers and insurance people... this is a good time for them with IRA planning."

One exhibit sure to be popular is Oregon Yurt Works. According to Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, a yurt is "a circular domed tent of skins or felt stretched over a collapsible lattice framework and used by the Kirghiz and other Mongol nomads of Siberia." Along with an actual yurt

in the Fairgrounds Convention Center, Oregon Yurt Works plans to have actual landscaping—complete with grass, shrubbery and waterfalls, all by Teller Landscaping.

Merchants who represent themselves at the Home & Garden Show normally give out coupons, or have special rates for their products and services.

"We get a lot of the do-it-yourself type people coming to the show and so a lot of what the exhibitors do gear toward that," Berg says.

Galyn Forster of Inside & Out Painting will be at his booth in his coveralls and with his buckets of paint. Baby World Diaper Service will have a changing and nursing room for parents.

"The builders are very popular at the show," says Helen Berg. Honn Design & Construction, Ellison & Platz Construction, Jerry Carlin Construction, AAA Plus Construction, Pacific Cascade Real Log Homes, Synergistic Construction, and David Zarycki General Contractor are some of the builders that will have exhibits.

Mrs. Oregon, who is Kathy Martin, and Karen Houle, who is Miss Lane County, will both be on hand Saturday and Sunday for all you auto-graph hounds.

Lane Community College will preview many of their Adult Education Courses at one display; Pacific Coast Publishing will again offer copies of their telephone book at their booth.

Some of the workshops that show-goers can see onstage at the show are: "Salsa from Canned Tomatoes" and "Dried Foods for Back Packing and Camping," both by the OSU/Lane County Extension Service; and

"Solar Energy—Alive and Well" from the Willamette Valley Solar Energy Association.

Northwest Integrated Pest Management will be available to advise people on alternative pest control methods; and for the first time, several custom cabinet makers will be there.

The Emerald Empire Art Association will display and sell paintings. Nationally known artist Louise Brown will be at the show.

There will also be some giveaways. Rexius Forest By-Products will provide lucky recipients with the delivery of a load of Bark-O-Mulch this spring. Also up for grabs are a microwave oven, a new chain saw, a portable trash compactor, a mantle clock, and a set of patio furniture—all compliments of various local companies.

What else? Here's one last small sample of some of the displayers: American Legion Baseball, American Lung Association, Bankers Life & Casualty, Chiropractic Information Bureau, Comfort Flow Heating, Coughill & Hansen, Custom Nails, Encyclopedia Britannica, Eugene Paging, Golden Memories Portrait Parlor, Hearing Aid Counselors, Herb's Cycle Town, IDS American Express, Major's Sports Center, Making Memories Fragrances, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Merrill Lynch, McKenzie Lions Club, Onsen Spa Sales, Oregon Repertory Theater, Sundance Solar and Washington Abbey.

Promoter Helen Berg evaded questions as to which booth has attracted the most people in past years, but she did let slip that "Greer Gardens does one demonstration/workshop that's very popular... it's on raising rhodias and azaleas."

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