

# SPRING AWAITS

# AT 20TH ANNUAL FLORENCE HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Stop by Florence Events Center March 4-6 for latest home improvement, landscape ideas

The 20th edition of the annual Florence Home and Garden Show at the Florence Events Center will open this Friday afternoon and when it does, it will mark a two decade partnership with the community and the events center.



This year's show begins Friday, when doors will be open from 2 to 6 p.m. Then again, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and it closes after Sunday's showing, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is just \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and under. Half-price coupons are available at Bi-Mart, while they last. If you're coming to the show late Saturday, you'll be pleased to know that you can get in for free between 4 p.m. and closing.

"I remember," says Coast Radio owner and General Manager Jon Thompson, "we were planning for this event even before they broke ground on the center." Thompson developed the idea of an event that he hoped would become a lasting community fixture.

And it has. When the Florence Home and Garden Show opened in the first weekend in March 1997, the center had already hosted several events, but the three days of the Home and Garden Show were

going to test the capacity of the center, as well as the response of the community.

"It exceeded our expectations," said Thompson. He added it has continued strong over the years. The first two years, the attendance was higher than anticipated.

"We had nearly 4,000. I think much of that came from just the fact that it was a new experience in Florence," he said.

By year three, the attendance had dipped slightly, but the show still consistently draws

more than 3,000 attendees.

"That's one thing that makes it so attractive to our vendors," according to Thompson.

One that has made an appearance since that very first year was Laurel Bay Gardens. Lisa Sedlacek's centerpiece display inside the center has been a focal point.

Two years ago they also moved to the front porch of the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., where "Bamboo Dave" Sedlacek began assembling an outdoor display that has

not only been welcoming to visitors, but has had a decided "educational" element.

This year the outdoor display will focus on "up cycling" or reusing common materials for something other than which they were intended. Bamboo Dave will show how he uses used wooden pallets in the house and the garden.

The outdoor display will also feature bagged soils and bare root fruit trees as well as flowering shrubs like Rhododendrons and Azaleas on sale for reduced prices through the show.

Inside, Lisa and the Laurel Bay crew are assembling a French garden market that will feature local jams, jellies, soaps and garden décor that Sedlacek says is "perfect for outdoor entertaining." The Marche de Jardin, her "afternoon in Paris" patio will also showcase the pavers and Laurel Bay's new potter collection.

The 20th annual Florence Home and Garden Show is not just landscaping though. The second longest running exhibitor at the show will be back for their 19th appearance. Kitchen Crafters will present demonstrations of their innovative, low-fat, cooking style.

In all there are more than 2-1/2 dozen merchants with their products and services on display.

One other feature this year will be hourly giveaways by the American Rhododendron Society's Florence chapter as well as lots of other giveaways, samples and demonstrations.

There will even be samples from Bandon's award-winning Face Rock Creamery.

"You can buy food for your pantry, things to cook it and serve it with," said Thompson. There are also several booths dedicated to maintaining and improving your home.

The show is sponsored by Three Rivers Casino Resort, Bi-Mart and Central Lincoln PUD. It's presented by Coast Radio and the Siuslaw News.

## COME SHOP LAUREL BAY GARDENS' MARCHE DE JARDIN

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Owners "Bamboo Dave" Sedlacek and Lisa Walter-Sedlacek look forward to visiting with you at this year's Home & Garden Show! Come meet the staff and get all your gardening and landscaping questions answered!

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