

# Home and Garden Show creates community

Community Spotlight 

**F**lorence Events Center hosted the 20th annual Florence Home and Garden Show March 4 to 6.

Jon Thompson, owner of Coast Radio and founder of the Home and Garden Show, said, "I wanted to do a home and garden show prior to the event center being built. That's when the seed was first planted — in the planning of the FEC. We've been doing it every year since it

has been open."

Lisa Walter-Sedlacek is the co-owner of Laurel Bay Gardens and has been a vendor at Home and Garden Show since the event opened in 1997.

"When the home show started, the events center was brand new. It was a true celebration of our community that so many people came out that first year. The place was just packed," she said.

More than 3,500 people attended the first show, and Thompson said an average of 3,000 people continue to attend.

"When I look back at attendance over the past 20 years, our attendance has held pretty steady," Thompson said.

"We have a true hometown feel," Walter-Sedlacek said.

"We're a small market, and Florence is kind of unique in its success at 20 years.

It's a big deal," Thompson said. "It's about the community and how the people interact, how they respond and how friendly they are.

"People create a sense of community at the FEC during the Home and Garden Show."

Jon Thompson and Lisa Walter-Sedlacek

Home and Garden Show organizers

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