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50th Indiana Flower & Patio Show promises golden showcase of finer outdoor living

INDIANAPOLIS – The 50th anniversary Indiana Flower & Patio Show will usher springtime into the Hoosier state several days ahead of the calendar with *A Red Carpet Affair* – the theme of the golden anniversary extravaganza expected to attract more than 100,000 gardening and finer outdoor living enthusiasts.

The annual show takes place March 8-16 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds' West Pavilion and Toyota Expo Hall in Indianapolis. Nearly 30 spectacular showcase gardens will be on site along with thousands of exhibits, features, programs, and displays that can be found only at the Indiana Flower & Patio Show.

Show hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 9 pm, and Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm. Admission is \$10 per person; children 12 and under are admitted free of charge. Parking is available in nearby State Fairgrounds lots for \$3 per vehicle; free shuttle bus service from parking areas to the exhibition buildings is available. Valet parking also is available at the north end of the West Pavilion for \$6 per vehicle. Call 317/576.9933 or log on at www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com for additional show information including details about several discount admission opportunities and dates and times for valet parking.

Long renowned as one of the nation's largest and most prestigious shows of its kind, the 50th anniversary Indiana Flower & Patio Show will fill over 270,000 square feet of space at the State Fairgrounds. More than 450 exhibitors will be on hand to offer show guests a look at the newest trends in finer outdoor living – including garden designs, plants, hardscapes, fire and water features, and much, much more.

Twenty-eight landscape designers have selected a cinematic favorite after which to theme his or her garden. Included among the themes are *Casablanca* (which comes complete with a Rick's Café where food and beverage can be purchased and enjoyed), *Hoosiers*, *A River Runs Through It*, *Breaking Away*, *Under the Tuscan Sun*, *It's a Wonderful Life*,

Caddyshack, and a salute to classic Disney films, among others.

A film-themed event wouldn't be complete without an "after party" – and the Indiana Flower & Patio Show has a series of after parties planned throughout its run. The largest will be *A Red Carpet Affair – After Dark* – a 50th anniversary celebration on Sunday, March 9 from 7 to 9 pm. During the event, the overhead lights will go down and the showcase gardens will be illuminated exclusively by landscape lighting, candles, torches, fire pits, and fire pots – creating a totally unique ambience within the exhibit halls.

Live music, anniversary cake, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine tasting, and a cash bar will await this year's *After Dark* guests. Cost for *A Red Carpet Affair – After Dark* – an age 21 and over event - is \$10 per person. A ticket stub from that day's Flower & Patio Show will be honored for re-admission to *After Dark*.

For details about weekday after parties, log on at www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com.

Dozens of features await discovery at the show; some of the most popular include:

- The 3rd annual **American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) Floral Design Competition**. Seven Indiana designers, including two-time winner Steve Biever of Evansville, will compete for a People's Choice Award announced on the final day of the show. The winner receives a crystal trophy and \$1000 cash prize. Each floral design also will interpret a favorite film theme – among those scheduled are *My Secret Garden*, *South Pacific*, *The Lion King*, *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Jailhouse Rock*.
- The 4th annual **Belgard Challenge**, which pits three local landscape designers head-to-head to create a fabulous garden design at *a cost of \$25,000, installed*. Competing this year are Spartan Landscaping, Fiano Lawn & Landscape, and McCune, Inc. Again, votes from showgoers will determine the winning designer.
- **Book signings** featuring local authors; check www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com for the schedule.
- The annual **Indiana Flower & Patio Show Plant Blow-Out Sale**. This is the opportunity for home gardeners to obtain plants, trees, hardscapes, and other items used in the showcase gardens at tremendous savings! The sale runs from 6 to 7:30 pm on Sunday, March 16.
- **Fresh spring flowers available for purchase** at the huge JP Parker display in the West Pavilion. JP Parker, with stores in Franklin and Indianapolis, annually offers showgoers the opportunity to take a little bit of spring home with them. Beautiful, healthy blossoms will be available at excellent prices.
- **Gardening presentations** throughout all nine days at **The Crumplex presented by Greendell Mulch & Mix**. "Dr. Dirt" himself, Dick Crum, Pat "Mr. Fix-It" Sullivan and other outdoor living experts will share their expertise from the Crumplex Theatre Stage.
- The opportunity to ask the really hard questions concerning lawns, plants, pests, and

related topics at the **Purdue Resource Center**.

- **“The Treasures of King Tutankhamun” exhibit** - a three-day “show within a show” slated for its inaugural Indianapolis visit March 14-16. Guests will be able to view over 250 museum-quality replicas of the fabulous treasures that were entombed with King Tut, Egypt’s infamous boy-king. Admission to this exhibit is free with the purchase of an Indiana Flower & Patio Show ticket.
- The 2nd annual **Super Bride Sunday**, an exhibition of dazzling wedding products and services, scheduled for Sunday, March 16, 10 am to 4 pm, at the State Fairgrounds’ Old National Bank Grand Hall. Admission is \$8; a combo ticket for Super Bride Sunday and the Indiana Flower & Patio Show, good for March 16 only, is just \$15, available at the door of either show.

A Red Carpet Affair, the 50th Anniversary Indiana Flower & Patio Show runs Saturday, March 8 through Sunday, March 16 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds’ West Pavilion and Toyota Expo Hall. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 9 pm, Sunday 10 am to 6 pm. Admission is \$10 per person; children 12 and under are free. Call 317/576.9933 or log on at www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com for additional information, including details about special admission discounts.