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NEXT WEEK'S "CONNECTICUT FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW" BRINGS AN EARLY SPRING
Opens Thursday, February 21st at Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford

HARTFORD, CONN., February 11, 2019 – A welcome breath comes next week at the “38th Connecticut Flower & Garden Show” on Thursday, February 21st through Sunday, February 24th at the Connecticut Convention Center at 100 Columbus Blvd. in Hartford.

“This year’s Connecticut Flower & Garden Show features two dozen fresh, green landscaped gardens in full bloom, a juried Flower Show over 500 entries, more than 80 hours of expert-led seminars and demonstrations, and over 300 booths of displays, activities and shopping,” explains Kristie Gonsalves, President of North East Expos, Inc. and the show’s producer. “The 2019 theme is *“The Charm of Spring”* and it will feature creative and practical ideas for house, apartment and condo dwellers, regardless of how green your thumb is.”

Show Highlights include:

- **Two dozen different landscapes** created by professional designers and nonprofit organizations, featuring naturalistic, low maintenance, native, organic, herb and pollinator gardens. They include A.H. Hutchinson Landscaping of **Wethersfield**, Aqua Scapes of CT in **Portland**, The Archdiocese of Hartford, Ballek’s Garden Center in **East Haddam**, the Bonsai Society of Greater Hartford, Connecticut Greenhouse Growers, Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association, the Connecticut Rose Society, Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery in **Woodbury**, Fairy Hop Gift Shop & Ladd’s Garden Center in **South Windham**, Florist Collaborative in **East Hartford**, Fresh Start Pallet Products in **Hartford**, Gresczyk Farms in **New Hartford, Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury**, Pondering Creations in **Terryville**, Prides Corner Farms, Inc. in **Lebanon**, Purina Animal Nutrition in **West Granby**, Rising Sun Landscaping in **Canton**, Sam Bridge Nursery & Greenhouse, LLC in **Greenwich**, and the University of Connecticut Horticulture Club in **Storrs**; as well as Bryce Studio of **Providence, RI**. In addition, a **fanciful sculpture of illuminated oversized mushrooms**, enhanced with various plants and florals will welcome attendees at the show entrance, created by artist Shauna Shane of FentonRiver Studio in **Storrs**.

- **The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut’s 2019 Standard Flower Show:** over 12,000-square feet of a design, horticulture and photography competition with **more than 500 judged entries**, all with an **“April in Paris” theme**. Featured will be a **16-foot replica of the Eiffel Tower** in Paris’ Champ de Mars, created by retired carpenter Joseph Kobylanski of **Branford**.

- **Over 300 booths of displays, activities and shopping** – artisans and handcrafted gifts, fresh flowers, plants, garden ornaments, metalwork sculptures, herbs, bulbs, seeds, fertilizers, soils, gardening books, patio furniture and lawn and garden tools and equipment. Bring a 1/2 cup of soil to the UConn Co-op booth for free soil testing.

- **More than 80 hours of seminars and demonstrations** by horticulturalists, landscapers and industry professionals are free with admission, led by **Mar Jennings, America’s Top Lifestyle Expert** and Emmy-nominated and Telly Award-winning host of an Amazon Prime TV series. Speakers include: **Roger Swain**, TV’s *The Man in the Red Suspenders*, former host of PBS’ *The Victory Garden* and HGTV’s *People, Places & Plants* (Friday & Saturday only); **Mike McGrath**, host of the nationally syndicated Public Radio show, *“You Bet Your Garden”*, and former editor-in-chief of “Organic Gardening” magazine (Thursday & Friday only); **Nancy DuBrule-Clemente**, author, horticulturist & owner of Natureworks Horticultural Services, an organic garden center, landscape design, consultation, installation & maintenance service in Northford, Conn; and **Patrick Comins**, executive director of The Connecticut Audubon Society.

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Expert led seminars include: (full schedule at www.CTFlowerShow.com):

- *Bring Casual Luxury Home* – Mar Jennings (all four days);
- *Vegetables for Tough Times* – Roger Swain (Friday & Saturday only);
- *Grow Your Best Tomatoes Ever* and *The Good, the Bad, the Ugly: Getting Toads, Birds & Bugs to Eat Your Garden Thugs* – Mike McGrath (Thursday & Friday only);
- *Herb Liberation and Eco-Friendly Garden Coach-Problem Solving Brainstorm* – Karen Bussolini;
- *Houseplants-from Urban Jungle to Winter Oasis* and *Nancy's Favorite Plants and Why-An Eclectic Collection* – Nancy DuBrule-Clemente;
- *Floral Arranging* – Bob Buettner;
- *Improving Your Backyard Habitat for Birds & Other Wildlife* – Patrick Comins;
- *When Good Worms Go Bad* and *Garden Ornaments* – Dawn Pettinelli;
- *Water Garden Basics* – Rob Townsend;
- *Backyard Chicken Gardening* – Amanda Morris;
- *Organic Lawns* – Steve Walowski;
- *5 Easiest Seeds to Save* and *5 Keys to Prevent Tomato Disease* and *10 Keys to Container Gardening* – Petra Page-Mann;
- *Monarch Mania* – Diane St. John;
- *Healthy Gardens* – Carol Quish;
- *Spring Pops* – Larry Huzi;
- *Garden Thugs I Love* and *Reinventing Groundcover* – Renee Marsh
- *Benefits of BioChar Soil* – Pat White;
- *Beauty & the Bees: A Different Way of Looking at Garden Design* and *Power Couples: Perennial Pairings for Jaw-Dropping Gardens & Containers* – Deborah Trickett;
- *Gardening to Support Native Pollinators & Butterflies* – Pamm Cooper
- *Using Tropical Plants in the Connecticut Landscape & My Garden* – George Trecina; and
- *Creative Floral Design from Field to Forest* – Trish Manfredi.

Show hours: Thursday, Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission: \$18 Adults; \$16 Seniors Age 62 and Over on Thursday/Friday only; \$5 Children 5-12; Free under age 5. Admission payment by Cash Only.

Group rates for 15 or more people: contact 860-844-8461 or Kristie@northeastexpos.com.

Advance tickets are discounted by \$2 and can be purchased no later than February 18, 2019 at the following Connecticut locations: The Garden Barn Nursery & Landscape in Vernon; Moscarillo's Garden Shoppe in West Hartford; Natureworks in Northford; and Woodland Gardens in Manchester.

Parking:

Daily parking at the Connecticut Convention Center Garage: \$9.00 all day; or \$3.00 first hour and \$2.00 per additional hour.

Thursday & Friday ONLY: Free parking & free shuttle at the Pequot Street lot at 18 Pequot Street, just north of I-84.

Saturday & Sunday ONLY: \$5.00 all day parking at Front Street North and South Garages, across the street from the Connecticut Convention Center.

Show sponsors include B & P Turf Farm, Connecticut Mulch Distributors, Inc., Maple Meadow Farm, Bob Buettner Florist, Renewal by Anderson, WRCH Light 100.5, WFSB Channel 3, Bedard Enterprises, and North East Expos, Inc.

To join the email list and get more information about the 2019 Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, seminars, and driving directions, visit www.CTFlowerShow.com or our Facebook page, or call North East Expos, Inc. at 860-844-8461.