

# NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **31st Annual Home, Garden & Leisure Show Announces Workshop & Demonstration Schedule**

BENTON HARBOR, MI – Spring is fast approaching and so is the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Southwestern Michigan Home, Garden and Leisure Show at the Mendel Center of Lake Michigan College. This year's show theme is "Season of Renewal – Bringing New Ideas Home". Eight highly informative and interactive workshops/demonstrations have been scheduled for this year's show. Topics include: green construction, tree and shrub care, designing outdoor living spaces, real estate buying and selling, a kids build project, Tupperware, basement waterproofing and foundation repairs, and a master gardener class on growing roses.

According to exhibitor coordinator, Mike Nadolski, "These workshops and demos are some of the most interesting and value added topics we've had in recent memory. Each session provides a unique learning opportunity." The workshops/demos are free of charge with paid admission to the show and do not require any pre-registration. Workshops/demos are scheduled each day of the show March 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. They offer participants a chance to learn from and ask questions of experts in their given field in an informal and informative setting.

Some special highlights include "Constructing Small Spaces for Simple Living", an exploration of the 102 square foot Tumbleweed Tiny House constructing by the Lake Michigan College Green Building Academy. The session will be presented at 6:30 pm Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. LMC course sessions offered through the Academy - which are available to the public - will also be discussed. Tours of the Tiny House will be available in the outside exhibit area throughout the show.

Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> is Demo Day at the show with workshops/demos happening every two hours throughout the day beginning at 10 AM. There are many quality sessions being presented. One workshop of special note is the Kids Build session at 4pm presented by Home Depot. Up to 50 kids ages 6-12 will have an opportunity to construct and take home their very own wooden spice rack.

Two more workshops will be held on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. You may want to make special note of "Yes You Can Grow Roses" offered at 3pm. This session is being presented by highly regarded rosarians Tom Conklin & Joyce Latta of **Walnut Hill Farm**. The many aspects of successfully growing roses will be explored in this session which has been approved as a Master Gardener Class.

Show hours are Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m., Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is \$3.00 and children 12 and under are free. Visit [www.SWMHomeShow.com](http://www.SWMHomeShow.com) for a complete list of workshops and demos with exact times and full descriptions, as well as other show information.

The 31st Annual Southwestern Michigan Home, Garden & Leisure Show is sponsored by Corporate Sponsors Changing Seasons Nursery, The Herald-Palladium, WSJM Radio, Silver Sponsors Chemical Bank and Kemner-Iott Agency of Cass County, and Bronze Sponsor Diamond Factory Services. The Show is hosted by the Southwestern Michigan Association of REALTORS® and the Southwestern Michigan Home Builders Association.

**2011 Southwestern Michigan Home, Garden & Leisure Show**  
**Workshops / Demonstrations Schedule**

Friday

6:30

**Constructing Small Spaces for Simple Living**

Tour the Lake Michigan College Green Building Academy Tumbleweed Tiny House and learn more about its construction and energy efficiency. Future plans for the house and course options of the academy will also be presented. This 102-square-foot of simple living is a fully functional house, with main living space, compact kitchen and bathroom on the first floor and a loft bedroom above. The house incorporates energy efficient features such as a solar tube which brings light to the kitchen, a solar attic fan, efficient appliances, and natural product building materials such as bamboo floors, pine interior walls and cedar wood siding. The Green Building Academy was born out of an energy grant from the Michigan Community College Association, shared by eleven other community colleges.

Sam Volker, Green Construction Instructor, Green Building Academy,  
**Lake Michigan College**

Saturday

10:00

**Caring for Your Trees and Shrubs**

Topics covered in this session will include:

- Planting shrubs and trees
- Planting trees right to avoid staking
- Caring for shrubs and trees in their first season and following seasons
- Fertilizing using organic fertilizers and compost
- Economical irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flower beds
- Seasons to trim and not trim trees
- Causes of tree and shrub failure

Questions from attendees will be welcome.

John E Nelson, "The Tree Man", Owner, **Changing Seasons Nursery**

12:00

**Be Inspired! Outdoor Living Spaces**

Have you ever thought about a tranquil relaxing getaway in your own backyard? How about creating a place to entertain family and friends, while sitting next to a cozy fire with the sound of splashing water? Or maybe you would like to hang out at your very own outdoor grill island or kitchen sitting at the bar watching the game outside! These are just some of the many possibilities and insights to be considered as we explore creating your very own "Outdoor Living Space".

Tom Johnson, Owner, **Professional Horticulture Services**

2:00

**Buying and Selling in Today's Real Estate Market**

- What buyers need to know about, available loans, title policies, inspections, foreclosures, short sales, and more
- What sellers need to know about today's appraiser inspections, market values, disclosures, staging tips, and competing with current inventory

Paul is an Accredited Buyer's Agent, Real Estate Tech Expert, and sales Consultant with Core Real Estate Inc.

He currently serves as the President – Elect for the Southwestern MI. Association of REALTORS.

Paul Dumke, **Core Real Estate Inc.**

4:00

### **Kids Build Workshop**

A supervised, kid-friendly construction project for up to 50 participants ages 6-12. Each child will build and take home a wooden spice rack.

**The Home Depot**

6:00

### **Tupperware Demonstration & Green Products**

Come and experience demonstrations on the latest offerings from Tupperware including Quick Chef with tomato or fruit salsa, as well as other green products including water bottles, filtered water pitcher, microfiber towels, Smart Steamer (as seen on Dr. Oz), Microwave Stack Cooker and Vent n' Serve.

Cindy Kregg and Deb Hodges, **Tupperware**

Sunday

1:00

### **Waterproofing a Basement & Repairing Foundation Walls**

This workshop will present different approaches to waterproofing a basement and repairing bowing/crumbling foundation walls. One solution explored is an all natural, FDA approved Bentonite hydro clay injection system that doesn't destroy landscaping or involve cutting an interior floor. Gravity fed drainage systems will also be discussed as an option to resolve hydrostatic pressure (water under the floor).

**Great Lakes Waterproofing**

3:00

### **Yes, You Can Grow Roses! - Master Gardener class**

Come to this session and learn why even experienced gardeners often curse roses as expensive annuals and why genetics and grower methods may result in a set up for failure.

Some of the other topics to be covered include:

- Tough survivor roses
- Low maintenance roses
- Fragrance factors
- When, where and how to plant roses
- Basic care of roses, including winter survival

Join us as we explore together how **YOU** can be successful growing roses, some of the longest lived plants on earth.

Tom Conklin and Joyce Latta are recognized experts in all aspects of selection, planting, care, and enjoyment of roses. Tom has been an American Rose Society Horticultural Rose Judge for over 45 years and Joyce is a licensed Landscape Architect specializing in residential garden design for almost 30 years. At their Walnut Hill Farm in Southwest Michigan, they grow thousands of hardy roses for display and sale.

This presentation is approved for CEU's for ARS Consulting Rosarians and Master Gardeners.

Tom Conklin & Joyce Latta, **Walnut Hill Farm**