



Wisconsin Public Television

NEWS RELEASE

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Garden Expo Offers Spring-like Respite in February

As winter settles over Wisconsin, the 22nd-annual Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo brings a bit of spring-like warmth to the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison Feb. 13-15. Event hours are: 3 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15.

Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) hosts the community educational event and fundraiser in partnership with UW-Extension Horticulture. Proceeds support WPT's quality programming and events that serve to enrich the Wisconsin community. Advance tickets are available now online at wigardenexpo.com.

This year's event features the newest innovations in lawn and garden tools with information and advice spread among lush green plants, colorful flowers and vibrant designs of spring. New this year is an expanded focus on food, from the bounties of home gardens to the fresh delicacies from Wisconsin's farms. **Visitors are invited to explore the inaugural Garden Expo Farmers Market in the Exhibition Hall Atrium 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15.** The Farmer's Market will feature farmers, food artisans and local food retailers.

More Highlights from this year's event include:

- Hundreds of exhibitor booths selling seeds, plants, books, tools, lawn equipment and other exciting merchandise for gardens and yards of all sizes, along with nonprofit groups specializing in mulching, various plant species, rain gardens, rock gardens, conservation efforts and more.
- Nearly 150 free educational seminars and demonstrations on topics including lawns, gardens, landscape design and more.
- Hands-on workshops that allow gardeners to take home a finished garden decoration, craft or edible creation.
- UW-Extension Horticulture experts available to offer insight, plant identification, and tips to gardeners and landscapers of all levels.
- The 1,600 square-foot Wisconsin Nursery and Landscapers Association (WNLA) Central Garden.
- A Garden Expo raffle for prizes including landscape packages, equipment, decorations, tools and more.

The 2015 Garden Expo also features the following new events:

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- **Learn From Gardening Expert Melinda Myers** - Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author and columnist Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience. Melinda is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and has written over 20 gardening books. She also hosts the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* segments that air on over 130 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda previously hosted seven seasons of *Great Lakes Gardener* on PBS. Thanks to support from the American Transmission Corporation, Melinda will offer two seminars at Garden Expo: "Create a Colorful Garden Filled with Birds, Butterflies, and Blossoms" at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday and "Shade Gardening Beyond Hostas" at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Meet Around the Farm Table's Inga Witscher** - Meet **Inga Witscher**, fourth generation organic dairy farmer and host of **Around the Farm Table**, the popular series on **Wisconsin Public Television**. The show offers viewers an intimate look at Wisconsin's farmers and artisan food producers. Inga will greet visitors and distribute recipe cards during Garden Expo at the Wisconsin Public Television booth 4-6 p.m. Friday, and 10 a.m.-Noon Saturday. She will also host a stage demonstration, "Gathering in the Garden: Ideas and Recipes for Your Next Garden Party" at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday
- **Meet Jerry Apps** - A celebrated rural historian and author of **Garden Wisdom** among dozens of other books, **Jerry Apps** will present his seminar, "Garden Wisdom: Lessons Learned From 60 Years of Gardening" at Garden Expo 2:15 p.m. Saturday.
- **Learn From Best-Selling Author Joel Karsten** - **Joel Karsten** is the author of two best-selling books on straw bale gardening. In March 2013, the *New York Times* called his method "revolutionary" in a full-page feature article that helped launch his latest book, "Straw Bale Gardens." Joel's technique shows you how to grow a garden without weeding, heavy lifting, getting down on your hands and knees, herbicides or insecticides. Joel will share how any backyard, concrete patio, rooftop or driveway can become a productive garden space. Joel will present the seminar "Learn how to Grow a Straw Bale Garden" at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, and 10:15 a.m. on Sunday. He will also offer stage demonstration presentations on "Building a Straw Bale Garden, Starting With Bales" at 6:30 p.m. Friday, 2:30 p.m. Saturday and 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

Single-day tickets for Garden Expo cost \$7 in advance and \$8 at the door. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Two-day passes are available for \$11 in advance and \$12 at the door. Three-day passes are available in advance for \$16 and \$17 at the door.

Advance ticket vendor outlets are located conveniently around the state in various supporting businesses. A complete list is available at wigardenexpo.com. Visitors also can purchase advance tickets at the website. There is an additional charge for parking at the Alliant Energy Center.

All proceeds from Garden Expo support quality public broadcasting in Wisconsin. It is an event presented by WPT, Friends of WPT and UW-Extension Horticulture.

Garden Expo is generously supported by premier sponsors WNLA, Green Power Tomorrow and Keleny Top Soil Inc.



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WPT is a service of the Educational Communications Board and University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Wisconsin Public Television is a place to grow through learning on WHA-TV, Madison; WPNE-TV, Green Bay; WHRM-TV, Wausau; WLEF-TV, Park Falls; WHLA-TV, La Crosse; and WHWC-TV, Menomonie-Eau Claire.

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