

# Home and Garden show has something for everyone

Looking for that finishing touch to fix up your home or garden?

There should be something to grab your interest at the annual Home and Garden Show this weekend at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The free event will feature booths by more than 20 businesses. Marty Melia, owner of KLOE/KKCI/KWGB radio, which organizes the show, said it should be entertaining.

The show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Each year, more than 5,000 people come to the show, Melia said. They'll find all kinds of home

improvement items and area businesses with their products and services on display.

The show has been going for about 30 years, he said, and there is something new every year. This will be the 20th year it has been held in the Max Jones. It started at the Elks building, Melia said.

"This is an area show," he said. "We get people from all over the area, both exhibitors and attendees."

Booths registered so far include Cal Spa's, Fotogirl, Goodland Greenline, Lifetime Cookware, S&T Communications, *The Goodland*

*Star-News*, Sears, Bubba's Meat Block, Prairie Rose Floral, Tri-State Spa's, Cochran Farm Supply, Williams Fresh Floral, Sherman County Foundation, Electrolux, Wolf Creek Accents, Northwest Kansas Technical College, Eagle Cable Television and Internet, Creative Curbing, Herl Chevrolet and Fitzgibbons Inc.

Melia said the station started the show to give businesses a way to show off products to people in the area and to attract new business.

"People can see that everything they need is right here in our area," he said.

## Environmentally-friendly lawn care tips, suggestions

Ecologist Diedre Russeth of the University of Minnesota provides tips for environmentally-friendly lawn care.

- An old-fashioned push mower is the most environmentally friendly way to cut the yard. There's zero noise and air pollution, plus it's great exercise!
- Use lawn-care products that are nontoxic and do not use a lot of natural resources
- The main nutrients yards crave are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. You can send a soil sample to your local county extension service and they'll provide an analysis and tell you which fertilizers your lawn needs.
- Use organic products on the lawn. Organic products are carbon-based and are therefore not harmful to the environment. Bone meal, mulch, cottonseed meal, compost and manure are all examples of organic yard-care solutions. They are safe to use around children and pets, too.
- Apply fertilizers in the spring and fall, when there's less rain and less of a chance for runoff.
- Corn gluten is a great natural herbicide. It's a pre-emergent herbicide, meaning it should be applied in the spring. Corn gluten is an effective combatant for dandelions and other broad-leaf weeds.
- Use native grasses and wildflowers as borders. They're easy to care for and require less fertilizer and watering.
- Mow frequently can help control weeds before they have a chance to mature.
- Brown patches of thatch are breeding grounds for disease. Thatch also prevents water and fertilizers from penetrating into the lawn. Get rid of thatch by giving the lawn a vigorous raking with a heavy wrought-iron rake.

## Program encourages young people to garden

Gardening has always been part of America's heritage.

It may be said that much of the growth, prosperity, and success we've achieved as a nation can be due to our strong agricultural and horticultural roots.

But we're in danger of losing that vital connection with the land and with our identity.

Each year, the National Gardening Association publishes a survey of lawn and garden trends in the United States.

In 2005, participation in gardening was at an all-time high — 83 percent of all U.S. households participated in one or more types of do-it-yourself indoor and outdoor lawn and garden activities — but the number of younger gardeners (18-34 years old) continued to lag. In the most recent survey the results found that 1 out of 3 people in this age group consider themselves a gardener.

Traditionally, people in this age group are least likely to participate in gardening activities, usually be-

cause many don't yet own homes or have space to garden, and they have other life priorities such as careers and young families.

What's troubling is that these "children of the Baby Boomers" are the largest segment (more than 34 million households) of U.S. household population, so unless they have a change of heart as they get older, interest and participation in gardening may decline in the future.

So what's fueling this lack of interest in gardening among the younger generation?

It can be traced to their roots. Far fewer members of this younger generation have personal connections to our nation's agrarian past.

As the number of farms continues to decline across the country and urban and suburban populations swell, younger people are less exposed to nature, agrarian lifestyles, and the experience of growing plants.

Lacking this positive exposure during youth, they're less likely to create their own gardens.

There's still hope — if you can't bring kids to the garden, bring the garden to the kids!

There is a growing movement across the country to restore gardens, plants, and green spaces to urban and suburban areas.

Between 1994 and 2004, the number of farmer's markets in the United States increased 111 percent (to more than 3,700).

There are more than 1,000 Community Supported Agriculture farms across the United States. Community gardens are continuing to prosper and interest in school gardening is rising.

Parents and educators are realizing the importance of maintaining this vital link with the land. But gardening in schools is more than just making kids aware of our national heritage.

Children who participate in school gardening programs often do better academically, develop better attitudes towards nutritious foods and exercise, and acquire life skills such as cooperation, leader-

ship, and a sense of responsibility.

Parents, grandparents, neighborhood volunteers, and teachers can take the initiative in their communities to introduce gardening to kids at home, at school, and in community gardens.

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# KLOE - KKCI - KWGB 2007 Home and Garden Show

Max Jones Fieldhouse  
Goodland, Kan.

Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
Sunday, April 29, Noon - 4 p.m.

## From Spas to Gardens

Goodland Star-News, Cal Spa's, Fotogirl, Goodland Greenline, Lifetime Cookware, Sears, S&T, Bubba's Meat Block, Prairie Rose Floral, Tri-State Spa's Cochran Farm Supply, Williams Fresh Floral, Sherman County Foundation, Electrolux, Wolf Creek Accents, Northwest Kansas Technical College, Eagle Cable TV & Internet, Creative Curbing, Herl's, and Fitzgibbons, Inc.

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