

# Gardener's Guide to the 2019 PHS philadelphia flower show

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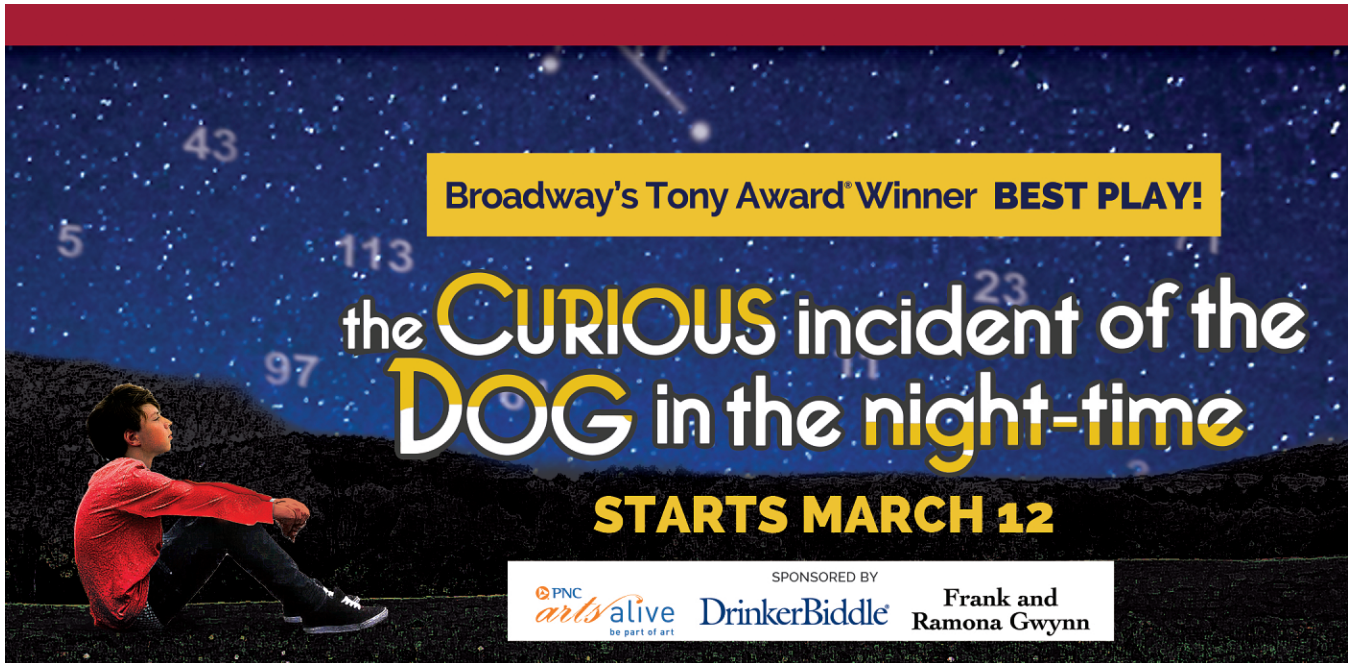
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# The power of flowers and the promise of PHS

Each year we welcome more than 250,000 visitors to an early breath of spring and the promise of beauty in our gardens and communities. As you enter the Philadelphia Flower Show this year, know that you are receiving an experience of a lifetime – the presentation of the FTD World Cup championships and exhibits by extraordinary horticulturists, landscapers and floral designers from here and abroad – while you are also supporting PHS’s work that brings to life “gardening for the greater good.”

A tradition for 190 years, the Flower Show has provided generations with inspiration and a place to build their skills and friendship with other gardening enthusiasts. The Show has provided a foundation

for PHS’s work with neighborhood residents to build community through horticulture. We are now poised for a new decade of growth leading to our 200th anniversary in 2027.

PHS’s path forward will be guided by a sincere belief that gardening can play a critical role in creating more livable environments, more economic opportunity, healthier food for our communities and stron-



Matt Rader

ger connections between people. Vision 2027, our strategic planning initiative, will create enormous impact in our region for generations to come.

Thank you for supporting our work by coming to the Flower Show. I invite you to join our cause by attending the Flower Show special events, becoming a PHS member or making a donation of time or money to support our work. Learn more at [phsonline.org/donate](http://phsonline.org/donate).

This year’s show theme, “Flower Power,” embodies the spirit of all that is good about gardeners and gardening. I look forward to welcoming you and thank you so much for your support.

Happy gardening!

*Matt Rader, PHS President*



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## Gardening for the Greater Good



You are invited to “see gardening through a new lens” at the PHS exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

- One gardener can make a big impact.
- One garden can help support health, wellness and safety.
- Imagine how gardening can make a difference in your community.



# The Power of Flowers in Our Lives

GMR DESIGN

The entrance to the 2019 Philadelphia Flower Show is inspired by 1960s Pop Art and features a hanging meadow of 18,000 flowers and plants.

By **Richard Ilgenfritz**  
 rilgenfritz@21st-centurymedia.com

With a nod to the 50th anniversary of Woodstock, portions of this year's Philadelphia Flower Show will have a 1960s vibe with its theme of "Flower Power."

With that theme in mind, visitors will also have the opportunity to attend some 1960s-themed events and then learn about

the power that flowers play in our daily lives.

"The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society applies the power of flowers in our work every day to create stronger communities," said Sam Lemheney, PHS chief of shows & events.

PHS is a diverse community of people who love plants and gardening and use horticulture to bring about positive change in the world, Lemheney explained. Through its comprehensive greening programs, PHS brings people and neighborhoods together, increases access to nutritious food, creates healthier environments and grows economic opportunity.

Exhibitors at the Flower Show will explore the many ways flowers have a significant role in people's lives.

They will highlight the medicinal use of some plants and the impact of gardening on mental health.

One exhibitor with a family member who passed away from dementia and Alzheimer's disease is working with the Alzheimer's Association to talk about how plants can help people with mental disabilities, Alzheimer's or dementia.

Another exhibitor will show how plants can have an effect on children and encourage them to get out of the house and into nature, spending a little less time in front of a screen.

Other groups will show the economic power of flowers and highlight some of the regions and countries that depend on flowers from a business standpoint. The growing of flowers in parts of South America, Africa and the Netherlands is important to their economies.

But the biggest thing Lemheney expects exhibitors will

## 2019 Gardener's Guide

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Edward S. Condra *Senior Publisher*  
 Shelley J. Meenan *General Manager*  
 Robert Jamison *Digital Director*  
 Thomas Celona *Content Manager*  
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF PHS  
The art of floral design  
will be celebrated at the  
2019 Philadelphia Flower  
Show.

highlight is that flowers have the ability to communicate  
across cultures.

**2019 Philadelphia Flower Show Highlights**

With that cross-cultural aspect in mind, the Philadelphia  
Flower Show will be hosting the FTD World Cup, a floral de-  
sign competition that is sure to be one of the event highlights.

It will bring in the world's best floral designers from 23  
nations to compete. For more information on the competition,

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see Page 8.

Lemheney said with 2019 being the 50th anniversary of Woodstock, the PHS is also planning on adding a 1960s feel to a few events.

The Preview Party on Friday, March 1, and the Flowers After Hours event, which will take place the first Saturday of the show, will have a '60s twist, with a Beatles tribute band playing those two nights.

An annual highlight returning for 2019 is the PHS Hamilton Horticult, where garden enthusiasts display their plants and compete for a blue ribbon.

Deb Donaldson, of Malvern, has been an exhibitor at the show since 2003 and said she plans on bringing in about 450 plants for both the viewing pleasure of the public and also for the Hamilton Horticult competition. She has finished as a runner-up for the top score in the Horticult for the past few years.

Among the vast majority of the plants she grows at her home are various types of succulent and cactus plants, she said.

Stephen Maciejewski, a leader in the local begonia and gesneriad societies and an exhibitor since 1998, has been growing various plants at his Philadelphia residence and has a long list of possible entries for this year's show. On each of the three days of judging, he said, he expects to have more than 50 plants, including begonias, gesneriads, philodendrons and succulents.

He refers to the competition in the Horticult as the "green Olympics."

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# Discover secrets of great floral design at the FTD World Cup



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FTD

The FTD World Cup 2019 will feature floral designers from 23 different countries.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FTD

A designer's idea takes shape at the 2015 Interflora World Cup, which was held in Germany.

**By Brian Bingaman**

*bbingaman@21st-centurymedia.com*

It rarely takes place in the U.S. and will be in Philly for the first time.

A highlight of this year's Philadelphia Flower Show will be the FTD World Cup, an international floral design competition that's held every four to six years. (It was last held in 2015.)

America hasn't been the host country since 1985.

Professional floral designers from 23 countries will be staking their claim to be FTD World Cup champion during the Flower Show at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. They will be judged on a specific 100-point system by a jury of six expert florists and overseen by a technical committee that makes sure everybody follows the rules and guidelines – size, materials, time limit – of each challenge.

By the time the Flower Show opens to the public March 2, the FTD World Cup will be well underway. That's the second day of preliminary rounds.

Competitors will be required to complete a "Table for Two — The Power of Flowers" design task in two hours. In the afternoon, they will have an hour and a half to complete a





# PHS philadelphia flower show

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF FTD

Red and yellow tend to be favorite floral design colors of Chinese designers.

“surprise package” prepared design task.

An FTD reception will be held on Saturday night in the Convention Center’s grand ballroom featuring a design demonstration by the American Institute of Floral Designers and the announce-

ment of the 10 semifinalists.

Katharina Stuart, the USA’s representative in the FTD World Cup, said that with the surprise packages, “all competitors receive the same materials, fresh flowers, containers and supplies, and we have to create an arrange-

ment according to the theme given.”

The semifinal round will be held on the show floor on March 3. The 10 designers who remain will contend with another two-hour surprise package design task. The competition concludes with a ticketed gala event on Sunday night in the grand ballroom featuring the final five finalists, announced after dinner, who will be creating a surprise package design on stage in just 45 minutes, followed by judging and a trophy presentation.

To find out what’s happening and when, go to [ftdworldcup2019.com/schedule](http://ftdworldcup2019.com/schedule).

“With having the FTD World Cup, the people in Philadelphia having the opportunity to see these countries and what their floristry does — anybody that’s in the area should grab [tickets],” said Jo Jarvis, the chairwoman in charge of the 2019 American Institute of Floral Designers exhibit at the Flower Show.

Each country’s differences in style are worth a look. According to Jarvis, Europeans will gravitate to earth tones, while designers from countries near the equator will be bold with their color choices, and the Chinese gravitate to shades of red and yellow.

Some of the floral artists in the World Cup even have their own fan clubs.

“It’s like an American football team — you have supporters who travel. It’s great that we have these contests because it ups people’s games,” Jarvis stated.

Stuart shared her keys to great floral arrangements going into the contest — the pressure magnified by the excitement of the Flower Show crowd.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FTD

Katharina Stuart will be competing for the U.S. in the FTD World Cup.

- “An interesting mix of blooms, texture and greenery. It’s also in trend to use dried, artificially colored flowers and other plant materials.”

- “Floral design is a planned process — a careful application of design elements, principles, forms, styles and techniques, which results in a composition that is pleasing to the eye. There are seven main principles of floral design: proportion, scale, harmony, rhythm, balance, unity and emphasis. The five elements of design are line, color, form, space and texture.”

- “Unusual color combinations like dusty rose and plum or bright orange, peach, pink and reds. It can also be fun to use shades of one color like, as an example, shades of greens or yellows.”

Bill Schaffer, of Schaffer Designs in Philadelphia, who is in his 20th year of involvement with the Flower Show, said that success in the World Cup requires focus — perhaps from listening to a playlist of favorite songs — and awareness of the remaining time in the round.

“I’m excited to see what happens,” said FTD Lead Floral Designer Andrea Ancel.



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHANTICLEER

**By Gary Puleo**  
*gpuleo@21st-centurymedia.com*

Spring will no doubt be on the minds of many who visit the Philadelphia Flower Show as they mentally organize their garden plans.

Some will actually be getting their hands dirty as they get a jump-start on their springtime projects while picking up tips from a renowned expert.

Sponsored by Subaru at the Gardener's Studio, the first-ever hands-on classes called Potting Parties will be led by iconic Chicago-based designer Tu Bloom, who is known for creating unique, award-winning compositions in eye-catching displays of both container and landscape garden designs.

The seminars, inspired by the growing popularity of container gardening, will be held daily throughout the run of the show, Bloom noted.

"The seminars are limited to between 50 and 70 seats, and we'll only have two seminars per day," he said.

"We'll also make it available for people to sign up online. This is the first year we're having this type of hands-on seminar. All my shows at the Chicago Flower Show sell out when they announce them, and they're only between 20 and 30 people, and we have five a day.

"People are developing and building so much that we're losing more and more ground space," Bloom added, "so that's why the popularity of container gardening has just skyrocketed."

Bloom has partnered with product vendors such as Wave Petunias, Burpee Home Garden, Organic Mechanics and Terracycle to provide plants, soil and containers for the classes.

"Everyone will have the same plants, which will be show-ready, beautiful and most of them will be in bloom," said Bloom, who hand-selected all the plant varieties.

"I chose plants that will do well in the cooler season, so

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people may have to keep the pot indoors for a few weeks and then bring it outside," he said.

The wealth of tips will help seasoned and novice gardeners alike grow their know-how along with their plants.

"What the seminar focuses on will be a lot of DIY tips. [For example], if you have a planter that is 18 inches in diameter that's really huge, what can you use to fill the bottom of the planter so you don't have to use a whole bunch of soil to fill it up?" he said. "I'll be talking about using things you find around the house to minimize waste, how to plant your plants a certain way to maximize their life when you first get them, how do you enhance container gardening by making it much more flexible and mobile.

"You're planting as if you

were at home, and it really activates a lot of logical questions that you never would have had if you were at a regular lecture because you're actually doing it."

Bloom achieved iconic status in the floral, garden and landscape industry relatively quickly in his mission to "help educate, inspire, and motivate everyday garden enthusiasts throughout the world." His notable projects include being designated as the official florist of the Grammy Awards, the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, Smart Home at the Museum of Science and Industry and numerous high-profile clients such as Elton John and Lady Gaga, as well as leading organizations worldwide.

A self-described "plant geek" who was experimenting at age 13 with genetically reproduced plants from cell

tissue in his family's apartment, Bloom credited his mother and grandmother for nurturing his passion for plants.

"The first book I ever read in its entirety was a 3,000-page plant encyclopedia," he said, laughing.

"I grew up in Chicago. We couldn't afford much as far as a family home, so we were living in an apartment, and I never had the growing space that I needed. So everything I did was containerized and all done indoors. That also gave me the experience of experimenting growing plants like Meyer lemons in full spectrum lighting indoors year-round."

He launched Tu Bloom Designs (tubloom.com) 12 years ago.

"My company in Chicago specializes in container gardening for all four seasons.



Guest designer Tu Bloom will host the Gardener's Studio and lead hands-on workshops.

We do spring, summer, fall, winter designs, and my team and I have probably done hundreds of thousands of container gardens. People who take the seminars at the Flower Show will be getting the best of the best ... the fastest, most successful and most cost-effective way to have an amazing growing season with container gardening."



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### Invasive Plants Walk & Talk

Wednesday, April 24, 10 am – 12 pm  
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580 Meetinghouse Rd., Ambler, PA 19002

We will answer all of your invasive plant gardening questions on this talk and walk through the Ambler Arboretum's gardens.

### Pruning Small Trees and Shrubs

Thursday, April 11, 5 – 7pm  
Chanticleer Garden, Wayne PA, 19087

Using the Chanticleer grounds as a classroom, Horticulturist Joe Henderson will demonstrate how to improve shape and habit of your trees and shrubs.

### Small Flowering Trees & Shrubs for the Home Garden

Thursday, April 18, 5 – 7pm  
Chanticleer Garden, Wayne PA, 19087

Flowering trees and shrubs make spectacular statements, accents, and specimens in the landscape. This walk will cover some of the favorites of Chanticleer Assistant Horticulturist Chris Fehlhaber.

## Travel with PHS



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### Third Thursdays: Seasonal Tours with a Twist

A seasonal tour of the estate house and gardens, featuring a refreshment that puts a fun twist on learning in the garden.

April 18 and May 16

### Fourth Thursdays: Garden to Vase

Learn about floral design while having fun with friends. Take home a bouquet with cut flowers from Meadowbrook's gardens.

April 25: Spring Splendor  
May 23: Beautiful Blooms

For a full programs listing, pricing and registration, visit [PHSonline.org/events](http://PHSonline.org/events) or call 215.988.1698.





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**By Donna Rovins**

*drovins@21st-centurymedia.com*

Flowers have power — to inspire, convey messages, evoke emotions.

They also have the power to heal and have long been used to naturally treat a variety of illnesses.

A study released last summer by the University of Pennsylvania found that work by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to turn blighted vacant lots into green spaces improved the mental health of neighboring residents.

That healing power is the message of several exhibitors at this year's Philadelphia Flower Show. They have each interpreted this year's theme of "Flower Power" to create healing gardens to share the physical, emotional and mental healing powers of flowers.

### **J. Downend Landscaping Inc.**

For Tom Morris, operations manager of J. Downend Landscaping Inc. in Ridley Township, Delaware County, the

company's exhibit, "Promise," is about the power of flowers to heal the mind.

The exhibit was inspired by a Promise Garden at the annual Alzheimer's Walk to Remember, which featured pinwheel flowers in four colors — each representing a specific meaning that pertains to Alzheimer's disease.

The intent of the exhibit, Morris said, is to raise awareness about the disease and to show how flowers can spark memories and soothe the mind.

The 30-by-38-foot exhibit follows the guidelines for an Alzheimer's therapy garden.

Some of the benefits of gardening for Alzheimer's patients, according to Morris, are reduced stress, improved communication, a secure environment and a sense of independence.

Morris's design features an 8-foot U-shaped pathway that starts and ends in the same place, which he said is important.

"The path should never dead-end — it should be a figure eight or a circle," Morris said, so visitors "may wander without fear of not finding their way."

The focal point of the J. Downend Landscaping garden is a



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAIN LINE HEALTH

At the Sydney Thayer III Horticultural Therapy Center at Bryn Mawr Rehab, patients, along with horticultural therapists, work with plants to improve mobility, coordination, balance, endurance, memory and socialization skills in a natural, therapeutic setting.

tree constructed to resemble the brain.

With bare branches initially, visitors are asked to write memories on colored die-cut flowers to be added to the tree.

“On a nightly basis we will make the tree bloom,” Morris said.

## The University of Delaware

“Salve” is an exhibit created by students in the University of Delaware’s

Horticultural Exhibit Design practicum, led by Jules Bruck, director and professor of landscape architecture at the university. The exhibit focuses on the power of flowers and plants to heal physical ailments.

The team’s design is a pop-up urban apothecary, representing where people used to get medicine that often included ingredients from plants, according to Bruck.

The 23-by-33-foot exhibit will include a medicinal gar-

den of healing plants. The plants are growing behind the building, Bruck said.



Lilac is thought to evoke memories in Alzheimer’s patients. J. Downend Landscaping of Delaware County has developed “Promise,” an exhibit for the Philadelphia Flower Show.

As they walk through the building, visitors see items that could be found in an apothecary.

An estimated 400 plants fill the garden including foxglove; Echinacea achillia; thyme and sage; Rhus aromatica, or fragrant sumac; sunflowers; lavender; and calendula, grouped by what their powers are.

“For me, the exciting part is the structure will be surrounded by medicinal plants,” Bruck said, adding that the garden is set up in uneven rows to show the ease of growing and to give the sense that apothecary gardening is low maintenance.

## Main Line Health

“Cultivating Wellness from the Ground Up” is the theme of Main Line Health’s Flower Show exhibit.

“Our mission is to offer a

holistic approach in providing patient care that encompasses the nature of the individual, mind, body and spirit,” said Jennifer Myers, marketing manager, Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital.

Main Line Health incorporates horticultural therapy and aromatherapy with essential oils into its rehabilitation efforts at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, a healing garden at Mirmont Treatment Center and vegetable gardening at Lankenau Medical Center.

The goal of the exhibit, according to Myers, is to illustrate the respect Main Line Health has for nature, nutrition and wellness.

The 26-by-38-foot exhibit incorporates 25 different types of plants.

It features a sensory garden, inspired by the sensory garden at the Sydney Thayer III Horticultural Center at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital. Plants with touch/sensory appeal are in the exhibit’s garden, including lamb’s ear, rosemary, peppermint and lavender herb.

In the Flower Show exhibit, the Delema G. Deaver Wellness Farm at Lankenau Medical Center showcases organic produce and herbs that are grown on the half-acre organic farm, according to Chinwe Onyekere, system director, health equity and graduate medical education at Lankenau Medical Center.

“We want people to come away with the idea that there is huge healing power in food,” Onyekere said, adding that she’ll be sharing information at the Flower Show about how locally grown food can play a role in preventative care.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Kellee Blockus, a student at W.B. Saul High School, works on the school's exhibit at the 2018 Flower Show.

**By Kevin Tustin**

*ktustin@21st-centurymedia.com*

As the country becomes more conscious about recycling and the vessels we use to bag our groceries, the mug to hold our morning coffee and the type of straw to take a sip of soda with a meal, the first source of providing a healthy living for our environment starts right beneath our feet.

The soil and vegetation of the earth in its many climates provide a massive amount of harvested crops and plants that add to the beauty of the world we live in while also providing a sustainable, organic way to replenish the earth.

The 2019 Philadelphia Flower Show demonstrates what talented horticulturists and landscape architects can do to with the riches of the land. Whether you like to tend to a beautiful garden as a hobby or are a budding landscape architect, it may be important to consider creating a sustainable gardening.

But what is sustainable gardening?

Exhibits by area universities and schools, including W.B. Saul and Lincoln high schools and the Lakeside School, will explore aspects of sustainability in the Home Gardener's Hub at the Flower Show.

"That's a big, big subject today," says Williamson College of the Trades horticulture instructor Charles Feld. "It's reusing things; it's recycling. Sustainability is pretty much not using chemicals; it's usually organic.

"The only difference is the use of chemicals," Feld said in comparing sustainable gardening to, perhaps, hobby gardening

that may include using synthetic chemical products. "Chemicals have changed quite a bit today, and people just don't want to use them," even if they may be safer when compared to something like DDT.

Rob Kuper, associate professor of landscape architecture at Temple University's Ambler campus, added that it can also include plants that are native — that term, he says, is subjective depending on who you talk to — to your community.

"Generally speaking, it might be a garden that includes native plants and that focuses on not only plants but ecosystem services of those plants or plant communities," he said. "It also implies, or is explicitly said, that it might exclude the use of pesticides and herbicides. ... Those things would harm in one way or another ... they would affect the plants and the organisms in that garden."

The use of a synthetic glyphosate is a Catch-22. First, invasive species that are planted in our gardens have the potential to aggressively absorb nutrients from native plants and allow their seeds to fill the seed bank, potentially allowing the invasive species to last for a while. You can take out those weeds by hand, says Kuper, but it may allow other plants to germinate. But using a glyphosate may terminate a near-future possibility of having a continual exotic problem.

If you choose to use chemicals in your garden or stick to a completely sustainable way of gardening, it will involve work.

"It's more difficult and time-consuming to create a more sustainable garden. It's still going to require effort, time and labor, but the benefits, not only for people, which are primarily



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAMSON COLLEGE OF THE TRADES

Williamson College of the Trades horticulture instructor Charles Feld, center in vest, helps students get trees ready for their upcoming exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show in March.

visual, may also be more pronounced in a sustainable garden because you have more insects and birds and other organisms that may be crawling or flying around,” said Kuper.

The material used to construct a garden is also something to pay attention to. Materials should have low embodied

energy and carbon and should exclude concrete, asphalt or steel.

“Each of these materials requires a great deal of energy to create and, as a result, a great deal of CO2 emissions associated with them. Relatedly, sustainable gardens should reuse or re-purpose materials or objects, rather than incorpo-

rating new objects or materials,” he said.

Feld cited a case study out of Poland to explain sustainable gardening. Cabbages were planted in a field contaminated by lead, and the cabbages absorbed the lead molecules out of the ground and made the land able to use for vegetation once again.

“There are separate, different ways how plants can take contaminants out of soil,” said Feld.

To get a look at this in action, Feld and his class of horticulture students have constructed a 28-by-27-foot exhibit for this year’s Flower Show that will include 12, 14-foot quacking aspen trees and displays explaining what kind of contaminants certain plants can take out of the soil.

“I think it’s going to be an eye-opener because people will go and investigate and find out what it’s all about,” he said.

Williamson and Temple are just two of the local education institutions that will present at the 2019 Philadelphia Flower Show encapsulating the theme of “Flower Power.”



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# Bringing families together through gardening

## Kid-Friendly Events

### Butterflies Live!

Butterflies Live! is an interactive and educational exhibit presented by California's SkyRiver Butterflies.

This fully immersive habitat features native plants that attract butterflies and encourage pollination. More than 1,000 butterflies of 20+ domestic and exotic species are included in the attraction.

Upon entering the room, guests of all ages have the chance to walk through the pollinator garden and feed the butterflies.

A separate ticket is required for the Butterflies Live! experience.

Butterflies Live! will be offered: March 1 (Members' Preview Day) from noon to 3 p.m.; March 2 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; March 3 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; March 4 to 8 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; March 9 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and March 10 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Make & Take

Take home your own handmade piece of the Philadelphia Flower Show at the Make & Take.

Watch your inner artist blossom as you select your own materials and receive guidance from DIY experts. Choose from three different crafts, each as inspiring as the next. A cost of \$10 includes all supplies and guidance to make your new favorite souvenir.

Crafts will include flower crowns, crystal necklaces and tie-dyed planters.

By Marian Dennis

*mdennis@21st-centurymedia.com*

There are few things that bring generations together like a shared interest.

For some, that means getting your hands a little dirty and watching something grow from it.

This year's Philadelphia Flower Show theme, "Flower Power," could not be a more appropriate title to describe what gardening does for family relationships.

This year's show will feature exhibits by area garden and landscape companies such as Stoney Bank Nurseries, which plans to emphasize the importance of play for children and their development.

"'Unplug and Play' is the title of our exhibit this year," said Hannah Deputy, landscape architect for Stoney Bank Nurseries.

"This year, we're doing a children's garden, and we wanted to do something on the power of plants in childhood development. A lot of beneficial things occur when children play outside. Their creativity skills are greatly improved because they're outside playing with sticks and rocks and they're imagining things. So we wanted to take that aspect of the power of plants this year," said Deputy.

Stoney Bank Nurseries, located in Glen Mills, Pa., cultivates its own rare specimen trees, plants and shrubs on a 24-acre nursery in addition to growing rare and unusual trees, shrubs and perennials for wholesale purchase by other landscape professionals.



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Photo by Meg Oliver

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The nursery itself is quite familiar with forming family connections through gardening. The nursery, which was founded by Jack Blandy, is now run by his son, Joseph Blandy. They have earned honors such as Best In Show at the Philadelphia Flower Show in 2003, 2004, 2014 and 2016. This year will be Stoney Bank Nurseries' 40th year in the Flower Show, and they're looking to spread the joy of gardening to as many families as they can.

"We're taking a simplified approach," said Deputy. "We're packing the exhibit with ideas people can take and bring into their own backyard."

But the exhibitors aren't the only ones who appreciate what plant life can do to bring people together.

In many cases, attending the Philadelphia Flower Show has become a tradition for friends and family, bringing them back each year to witness the growth of plants they've seen before or to have a whole new experience taking in fresh new exhibits from area horticulture experts.

"We sort of joke and call it old home

week because I see people there from different states just to see what's new and enjoy being among the flowers. You're hit by this wall of flowers and green ... and you take this big breath, and everyone is just so happy. It brings so many people joy," said Jenny Rose Carey, senior director of PHS Meadowbrook Farm.

Carey knows a thing or two about how plants bring people together.

In addition to volunteering and attending the Flower Show since her 20s, Carey is a former horticulture teacher at the Barnes Foundation and an adjunct professor at Temple University. She is also a member of the Delaware Valley Daffodil Society, the Herb Society, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the Chelsea Physic Garden, as well as a Smithsonian Life member of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

"I actually have an interesting connection to the show. I work for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and have worked there for four years. I've been a longtime volunteer at the Flower Show before then. I've had various

connections to the show and love it and feel like it's such a wonderful boost for gardeners who get a little stir crazy this time of year. It's a way of bringing spring earlier to the Philadelphia area," said Carey.

### PHS Meadowbrook Farm Thursday Gardening Series

#### First Thursdays: Family Fun in the Garden from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

First Thursdays are open for families with elementary-aged children to visit, learn and explore in Meadowbrook's Family Garden. These programs will include a seasonal craft and garden walk.

**Dates: April 4: Pansy Printing; May 2: Flowers and Bees; June 6: Flower Bunches; July 4: closed; Aug. 1: Smells in the Garden; Sept. 5: Leaf Printing.**

Fee: \$5 members; \$10 non-members. This fee includes admission for one elementary-aged child and one accompanying adult.

For information and to register, go to [meadowbrookfarm.org](http://meadowbrookfarm.org).



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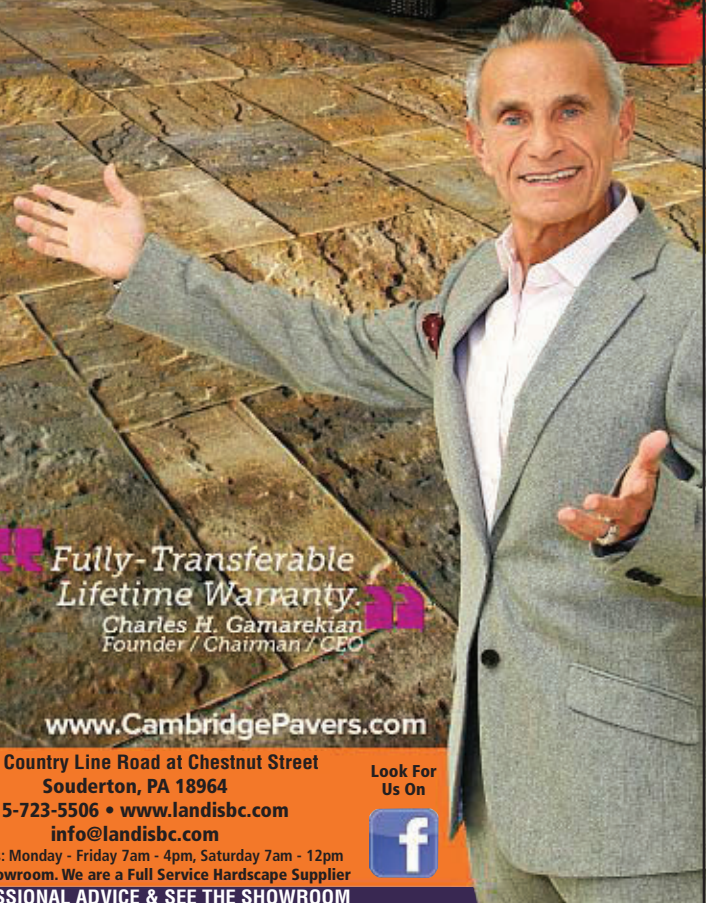


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