

The MOUNTAIN EAR

35 YEARS

THE WEEKLY NEWS & LIFESTYLE JOURNAL OF MT. WASHINGTON VALLEY



Container Garden Creations

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Home, Garden & Flower Show

Northern New England Home Garden Flower Show blooms again...**A2**



Catch-M-All:

Fish #9, A Peck of Pickled Pickerel ...
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Valley Feature:

The Farm by the River's history is as rich as the land it sits upon
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MGC at the Home, Garden & Flower Show, May 13 – 15

The Mountain Garden Club (MGC) is excited to again be exhibiting at the Northern New England Home, Garden & Flower Show in the Craft Building at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds on May 13-15. The club invites you to view "Container Garden Creations" at its booth this year.

Container gardening is the new "in" in gardening – containers fit just about anywhere and anything can be used.

With just a pot or two you can create a new gardening opportunity, incorporating whimsy and imagination. Take, for instance, the hand-painted chickadee bowl and pedestal filled with lush plants and colorful flowers that can be enjoyed in the garden, on a deck or porch. If you don't have room for a full-sized vegetable plot, we have planted a moveable feast – two wooden barrels filled with favorite vegetables to feed the body, as

well as the soul. They are portable in a utilitarian garden wagon that can be pulled around to follow the sun. If you have only a deck or a patio and no in-ground planting space, the beautiful lapis blue ceramic birdbath and planter base filled with aromatic herbs will create a soothing outdoor space. Finally, create the perfect focal point for a window into your garden with the 7-foot, arched cypress arbor planted with climbing vines

on each side.

The club will be raffling these four garden creations by MGC members, as well as an additional four items: a 22" Toshiba HD TV donated by Sound Resort; a \$100 gift certificate to the Oxford House Inn's gourmet restaurant in Fryeburg, Maine; two first class tickets for the dining car, Hattie Evans, on the Notch Train donated by Conway Scenic Railroad and; three yards of Ocean Blend organic

compost donated by GDC Garden Center.

The raffle proceeds are for the MGC Alice T. Madden Scholarship fund that awards five \$1,000 scholarships to students in the Mount Washington Valley area who are pursuing a higher education in any of the horticultural or environmental disciplines.

For more information on the club, visit the website at: www.mountaingardenclub.org

Show

Continued from facing page

Amy LeBlanc a.k.a. the Tomato Lady, for sure. Ficker says she has many exhibitors who want to be in the same building as LeBlanc. "Amy is from East Wilton, Maine. She has own unique style and personality, very much old school, tells it like it is," says Ficker. LeBlanc grows heirloom tomatoes started from seed.

Visitors have a powerful interest in energy savings, notes Flicker. She reflects on where we are now after three years. "People have reached a point where they know energy is not going down. Perhaps they have put off doing something about it," says Flicker.

The next generation of energy savers is coming down in cost. "The price point has come down, an entry level heating system is now \$7,500 and will continue to go down. When you have to pay \$4 per gallon for oil, you need to make plans what to do," she says.

Flicker tells of the man she met last year outside waiting for the show to open. She asked him what he was interested in. He told her he has

been watching outdoor wood boilers for the past three years. He figures if he spends \$15,000, it will take five years to pay for itself. Another gentleman told her, he just made his sixth appointment for someone to come by to conduct an energy evaluation.

People come for the gardens, to buy presents for Christmas, she adds. And...the desserts from pastry chef Cedric Beguin from the Mountain View Grand. His creations are works of art, she says.

"It is really amazing, I keep using the word amazing. And everyone is so gracious to be there," adds Flicker.

The 2011 Northern New England Home Garden Flower Show at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds, Fryeburg, Maine will be open Friday, May 13 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, May 14 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

General admission is \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors (over 65). Youth aged six to 16 are \$4 and children under six are free.

For more information visit: <http://www.homegardenflowershow.com>.

Boston area storyteller visits Corner House Inn, May 19

Storyteller Jim LaChapelle of Wilmington, Mass. makes his second appearance at the Corner House Inn's Storytelling Dinner program on Thursday evening, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. Jim has been telling stories for over a dozen years to young and old alike. He specializes in folk and fairy tales from around the world.

Jim has performed at storytelling venues throughout New England, including the Boston Museum of Science, Three Apples Storytelling Festival in Harvard, Mass., Fall Festival in Boston, Oyster Festival in Norwalk Conn., First Night in



(Courtesy Photo)
Storyteller Jim LaChapelle will make his second appearance at the Corner House Inn Storytelling Dinner on May 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Billerica, Mass., and the Bayside Expo in Boston.

Jim recently released a sto-

rytelling CD entitled "Once Upon My Imagination", a collection of folktales from around the world.

Don't miss this opportunity to catch Jim's visit to the Corner House Inn. This is the next-to-last Storytelling Dinner on the schedule before the program's summer hiatus. Storytelling Dinners are held each Thursday evening from late October through May at the Corner House in Center Sandwich. For more information or to make reservations contact the Corner House Inn at 284-6219 or online at info@cornerhouse-inn.com.

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Northern New England Home Show rides again at Fryeburg Fairgrounds

By Rachael Brown
Contributing Writer

KARLA FICKER AND Cyndi O'Connor know how to put on a show. They have been producing home and garden shows for the past 23 years in New Hampshire and Maine. On May 13, gates will open for the 10th season for the youngest of their shows, Northern New England Home and Garden Show, at the oldest fairgrounds in Maine: Fryeburg, of course.

The home show career of Ficker and O'Connor, co-owners of Dickson and McGonigle Inc., grew out of their "Buyer's Guide to Real Estate" published back in the 1980s.

"When we started out, we had a buyer's guide to real estate. At the time we had 64 pages, then real estate went into a crash in the mid 1980s. When the market went south, the banks came to us and wanted to get rid of bank owned property," explains Ficker.

Dickson and McGonigle held a bank-owned property show at the former Sheraton in North Conway. Next they were asked to produce a similar show in Portland. "We road that wave, then stepping into the arena of home shows. We have had wonderful years and some not so wonderful years," says Ficker.

She tells of the challenges with weather, in particular, the storm of the century in 1993 when they were exhibiting at Pease International Tradeport and the roads in and out of Portsmouth closed at 1 p.m. and the ice storm of 1998, which also forced them to close a portion of the show.

"Over the years we have gained knowledge, there are a lot of big exhibitors we know personally and have become good friends," say Ficker.

Ficker and O'Connor, along with one staff member Erin Bott, who handles the graphics, go to great lengths to plan the shows, making sure the exhibitors and sponsor compliment one another. How long does it take to produce a show? "I can't begin to tell you, it takes all year. I look forward to finding the floor again after the show," says Ficker.

The show has grown and



(Courtesy Photo)

Show goes stop by Cindy Tibbetts' Humming Bird Farm from Turner, Maine to check out the heirloom varieties.

grown. Ficker and O'Connor began at the Ham Arena with 90 booths. "We grew out of that space and sold out in three weeks. "We have 300 booths at the fairgrounds, eight buildings, five acres and we use every conceivable inch," she says.

Here's what show goers can expect:

- Eleven garden centers, including organic and CSA's (community supported agriculture)
- Eco-friendly and state-of-the-art products for greener living
- Remodeling- practical and cost efficient construction
- Energy savers- shrink your carbon footprint and your fuel budget
- Words of wisdom - talk with experts and view their products join seminars and workshops
- Meet the Chefs Cooking Series. In a kitchen designed by Hancock Lumber, local chefs and television celebrities present their culinary creations. Mary Ann Esposito,

host of a PBS series, local chef Jim Davis, from the Stonehurst Manor, North Conway, chef's from Cabot Creamery, Maestro's, North Conway and The Mountain View Grand, Whitefield-just to name a few.

There's the feeding frenzy

of fair food, too. Show goers can graze on traditional fair food. "There are some of the same vendors that come to the Fryeburg Fair. Lobster rolls, fried clams, anything that's not good for you," says Ficker.

Ficker adds there are rides for children, great handi-

capped parking, free parking across the street, golf carts available for getting around. "People go all out for their displays. It is really amazing," she says.

Some favorite exhibitors:

SHOW continues on facing page



(Courtesy Photo)

Mary Ann Esposito, host of the nationally televised PBS Series, Ciao Italia will be featured at Meet the Chefs Cooking Series on Saturday.

On the Cover

Container Gardening

The Mountain Garden Club (MGC) is excited to again be exhibiting at the Northern New England Home, Garden & Flower Show in the Craft Building at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds on May 13-15. The club invites you to view "Container Garden Creations" at its booth this year.

(DD Warren Photo)

Inside

Downstream

Check out the East Branch for a quick after work paddle. Few runs in the Valley offer the fast access and fun for a quick run as the East Branch of the Saco. Page A17.

Nooks & Crannies

For trampers who have an interest in learning more about what they see along the trails, the recently published book, "The Nature of New Hampshire: Natural Communities of the Granite State" will make the journey a whole lot more rewarding. Page A22

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