



HIT THE GROUND GROWING

Spring is in the air at the Philadelphia Flower Show and the Pennsylvania Garden Show of York. Both events will feature gardens galore, offering ideas and seminars you can bring to your backyard.

National treasure inspires 'Explore America' theme

From Maine's Acadia to Volcanoes National Park in Hawaii, the 409 venues in America's National Park Service system have inspired this year's Philadelphia Flower Show.

Running Saturday through March 13 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th and Arch streets, Philadelphia, the event is the world's biggest and oldest indoor flower show, heralding the end of winter since 1829. It takes on a different theme each year. Last year's "Celebrate the Movies" edition drew 250,000 visitors during its nine-day run.

This year's "Explore America" theme pays homage to the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service being founded.

That will translate into landscape displays featuring meadow wildflowers, pine and redwood forests, coastal wetlands and desert blooms — in short, the diverse variety that makes up the park system.

The nation's parks will come alive at the main entrance thanks to Philadelphia's Klip Collective technology studio, which will project the sounds of thundering bison and native birds while



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GEORGE WEIGEL
OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

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Pennsylvania Garden Show blooms at York Expo Center

The Pennsylvania Garden Show of York returns for its 24th season this weekend, giving winter-weary gardeners a sneak peek at spring with indoor display gardens, seminars and a gardener's minimall.

The 2016 show will be Friday through Sunday in the York Expo Center's Memorial Hall, 334 Carlisle Road, York.

Nine York-area landscapers are building indoor display gardens around a theme of "Stepping Through Thyme."

"We'll have a few surprises for visitors who want to actually step through time," said Richard Jacobus, owner of the Meadow View Gardens landscape firm and the show's promoter.

One of them is an antique Atlas delivery truck made in York in 1919 by the Martin and Perry Co.

"We're also again having a romantic nightscape room with stars overhead," Jacobus said. "That's been really popular."



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YOU OUGHTTA KNOW | THREE CRAFTS TO GET YOU IN THE MOOD FOR SPRING



WINE BOTTLE GREETINGS

Don't toss your bottles, use them

Make use of old wine bottles in this easy decoration. Remove the labels of three similar bottles, spray paint them and decorate each with one letter of the word "spring." Keep letters similarly styled with stencils from a local craft store. For extra flair, wrap the neck of the bottles with twine and tie together with a hot glue gun.



FESTIVE HOLIDAY GARLAND

Faux flowers give us hope for warmth

Cut small, spring-themed shapes out of pastel tissue paper. Using construction paper, cut out letters to spell "spring," "Easter" or another seasonal word or phrase. Place one letter on each shape and attach to colored twine with clothespins. Glam it up with sparkles or glitter. Drape it in the front window for all to see.



MASON JAR GLITTER GLOBE

Add some sparkle to your spring crafts

Collect items for the inside of your globe, such as fake flowers, bunny or chick figurines. Glue the items to the inside of the mason jar lid. Next, fill the jar with glitter, water and a few drops of glycerin. Secure the lid shut with a glue gun. Add a pink or light-blue ribbon around the jar lid to add some spring color.