

PRESS RELEASE

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2014 DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR HORTICULTURE SHOW

Rhinebeck, NY.... By the end of August most of us gardeners in the Hudson Valley could use some inspiration. The weeds are still coming, and the weather, along with the occasional four legged visitor has sapped our enthusiasm. Help is at hand with a visit to the Dutchess County Fair's Horticulture Show. The 2014 theme for this magnificent show is a "Backyard Paradise" and it promises to delight and inspire all visitors. The fair opens for its six-day run on August 19.

The Fair's Horticulture Show is the largest display of its kind in the Hudson Valley and is held in the Horticulture Building located at the base of Livestock Hill (fair map # 22).

Entering the building on the lower level visitors are first enticed by the beautiful Christmas Tree Competition. It is located on the right hand side. The Douglas Firs, Balsam, Fraser Firs and Colorado Blue Spruce presented in this show must be 6 to 8 1/2 ft high and they and must be grown in New York State. Some judging criterias are: color, taper, density, naturalness, and foliage.

Further along and inside the building are the Professional Landscapers, Florists, Public Gardens & Historic Sites and Educational Displays. All displays will exhibit a "Backyard Paradise" and since judging is done at the beginning of the week, fairgoers can view the ribbons awarded. You can also vote daily in the 'People's Choice " category.

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On the upper floor, adults and juniors alike present their thematic displays as well as show their efforts at raising the perfect marigold, zinnia, mum, gladiola, dahlia and, of course, rose! Roses are judged according to substance, stem and foliage, balance and proportion and size of each bloom.

The Adult Design classes must incorporate the "Backyard Paradise" theme. Although many categories of display are unknown until opening day, all must not only relate directly to the show's theme but observe restrictions regarding plant materials protected by conservation laws.

Junior Design classes include the following themes: "Sandbox Fun", "Backyard in the Morning", "Rainbow after the Rain", "Fun in the Sun", "Personal Shades". "Bare Branches of Winter", "Z is for Zinnia", "Cookout Time", "Loafing around the Lawn" "Barefoot in the Grass", "Backyard Party" and "Patio Garden". The junior classes are held Tuesday (8/19) and Thursday (8/21) with classes for 5-8 year olds ,9-12 year olds and 13-16 year olds.

Exhibitors will be on hand offering explanations and advice as will the Master Gardeners from the Dutchess County Cooperative Extension. The Horticulture Building is open from 10am to 10pm each day of the Dutchess County Fair.

A stop at the Horticulture building is sure to provide not only inspiration, but information and an enjoyable break from the hustle and bustle of a busy summer's day.

