



Quad-City Labyrinth Project



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Bloom' aims to please in RiverCenter South

Alma Gaul | Friday, February 04, 2005 Quad City Times

Symphony in Bloom is getting more compact.

Rather than trying to fill Davenport's RiverCenter North and South, organizers of this year's lawn, garden and flower show on March 4-6 will stage the entire show in the south building.

Show director Kate King says this isn't so much a scaling back as a response to patrons who complained that it was difficult to get from one building to another and that attractions were too spread out.

In some instances, show-goers weren't aware there were two buildings, so never made it to one or the other. And in either case, vendors weren't happy being in areas with little traffic.

"I would never say that it is smaller," King says of the show. "I would say we restructured it to make it fit. We tried to make it accessible and to make it so that people could really enjoy the show in the sights, sounds and scents of spring."

This is King's first year as Bloom director, but she is very familiar with the RiverCenter/Adler Theatre, having served as its events coordinator and manager of human resources and guest services for eight years until the position was eliminated in a restructuring last February.

As the new director, King is excited about other aspects of the show as well.

About 20 garden displays have been committed to so far, including a collaborative Country Greenhouse with cafe by Wallace's Garden Center, Bettendorf, and Aunt Rhodie's, in the Village of East Davenport.

Also designing gardens will be Volunteers for Symphony, which will create the centerpiece "violin garden" in the main concourse; the Tri-City Garden Club, which will construct a grand allee of arbor vitae; and the Quad-City Labyrinth Project, which is planning a spiral garden.

Also among those participating are the Quad-City Botanical Center, Rock Island; Big Sky Landscaping, Eldridge, Iowa; The Green Thumbers, Freeman Tree Farm and R.J. Wolfe, all Davenport; Staack Florist and Mallard Nursery, both Moline; Eastern Iowa Landscape, Muscatine, Iowa; and the Mississippi Valley Hosta Society.

Nine speakers will share garden knowledge and tips; they include Liz Hunt, of Ball Seed based near Chicago, who will speak on container gardening; Bob Boylan, of Boylan Farms, near Charlotte, Iowa, heritage roses; Theresa Greene, Blueford, Ill., seed swapping, Jackie Arvidson, Princeton, Iowa, herbs; Ray Wolf, Eldridge, Iowa, microclimates; Tom Dywiak, Davenport, roses; and the owners of Distinctive Gardens, Dixon, Ill.

An artisan from the Isabel Bloom sculpture studio will be at the show to answer questions about the sculpting process and to demonstrate how tiles are put on the collectible made especially for this year's show titled Flower with Tile.

Special events will include a preview party on Thursday, March 3, with music by the Ellis Kell Band and food from Heart of America restaurants; Family Time on Friday, March 4, with free



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admission all day to everyone 18 years of age and under and 90 years and over; and a Jazz Brunch on Sunday, March 6, at the River Music Experience, with two seatings (10 a.m. and noon), with food by Centro.

From 5-8 p.m. Saturday, March 5, there will be half-price admission (\$3) and the first 200 through the door after 5 p.m. will receive free candy bars made especially for the show by Murray and Sheryl Pople, Rock Island.

Symphony concerts also will be presented Saturday-Sunday, March 5-6.

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