



**Media Contact**

Natalie Kopp  
Marketing & Audience Development  
(717) 236-4300  
[nataliek@journalpub.com](mailto:nataliek@journalpub.com)

For Immediate Release

**Think Spring at the 2012 Pennsylvania Garden Expo**  
Annual event expands, offers Outdoor Living Showcase, celebrity guests

Harrisburg, PA (February 3, 2012) – Spring is in the air, and nothing welcomes the season like Central Pennsylvania’s largest and longest-running gardening event, the Pennsylvania Garden Expo, presented by Stauffers of Kissel Hill. Three days of beauty, inspiration, education, shopping and entertainment will take place **February 24-26, 2012** at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. General Admission tickets are available at the door for \$13. Weekend passes and one-day VIP tickets are on sale for \$20 each. Discount advance tickets are available at [www.pagardenexpo.org](http://www.pagardenexpo.org) or at any Stauffers of Kissel Hill location.

Our most popular exhibit returns in 2012 with brand new features for outdoor enthusiasts. Professional landscapers from all around the region will transform the Northwest Hall into a gardening-lover’s paradise. Their designs, including elevations, boulders and waterscapes, will cover more than 55,000 square feet of space. A second hall showcases more than 150 exhibits and specialty shopping opportunities. In addition to the featured gardens and **Market Faire** shopping area, The Outdoor Living Specialists will expand the show into a third hall with the very latest in backyard design. The team has created the ultimate **Outdoor Living Showcase** with a full-size swimming pool, outdoor kitchen and elaborate landscaping.

“This show combines the beauty of lush landscaping (who *doesn’t* want to see green trees and gorgeous flowers in the middle of winter?) with the practicality of a ‘how-to’ clinic,” says Expo Director Cathy Ashby. “The landscapers, garden experts and outdoor professionals that work at the Pennsylvania Garden Expo love to see attendees’ yard plans and sketches and hear their questions so they can talk about real-life application of gardening techniques.”

New for its 9<sup>th</sup> season, the Pennsylvania Garden Expo welcomes professional landscaper **Ahmed Hassan** of the DIY Network’s *Yard Crashers*, *Blog Cabin* and *Turf War*. Hassan has been mastering outdoor living for more than 20 years, all over the country. He joins the star lineup on the CVM Subaru Garden Talk Stage, Sunday, February 26, to share an engaging experience filled with fun, entertainment and education, all related to life and landscaping.

On Friday, February 24, photographer **Matthew Benson** will show guests how to capture perfect nature snapshots. Benson has been a contributing editor to *Organic Gardening* magazine, as well as author of the upcoming book, “The Photographic Garden: Mastering the Art of Digital Garden Photography.” His work has been featured in *Better Homes and Gardens*, *House & Garden* and *Country Gardens*.

This year’s event includes several special programs for gardeners of all ages. Families are invited Saturday, February 25, for Central Penn Parent magazine’s **Family Night in the Garden**, sponsored by The Goddard School, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Parents and children can enjoy educational activities,

crafts, animals, a puppet show, a lemonade stand, finger-painting on a car and more. Admission is \$5, children ages 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

Friday, February 24 is Senior Day, sponsored by Luthercare. Attendees 55 and older who arrive between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. will receive \$5 admission at the door.

Sponsors of the 2012 Pennsylvania Garden Expo include: Presenting Sponsor, Stauffers of Kissel Hill Garden Centers; Garden Talk Stage Sponsor, CVM-Subaru; Outdoor Living Showcase Sponsor, The Outdoor Living Specialists; "Ask the Experts" Station and Hardscape Sponsor, Belgard Hardscapes/Pennsy Supply; PA Preferred Specialty Crop Sponsor, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; Media Sponsors, abc27 WHTM, The Patriot-News, PennLive.com, 101 The Rose; Family Night Sponsor, The Goddard School; Senior Day Sponsor, Luthercare; Exhibitor Booth Sign Sponsor, United Water and Community Gardens Sponsor, Green Urban Initiative.

Show hours are Friday, February 24 and Saturday, February 25 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission includes all presentations and DIY Demonstrations. For advance online ticket sales, general show information and a presentation schedule, visit [www.pagardenexpo.org](http://www.pagardenexpo.org).

The Pennsylvania Garden Expo is produced by JPI Expo, the consumer expo division of Journal Publications Inc. of Harrisburg. Contact Karen Rousche, expo manager, with event questions at (717) 236-4300 or [info@jpiexpo.com](mailto:info@jpiexpo.com).

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