



PRESS RELEASE

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Home & Garden Show partners with Columbus Metropolitan Library to bring Children's Storybooks to Life

Matt Muenster from "*Bath Crashers*," Karen E. Laine and Mina Starsiak from "*Good Bones*," Tom Silva from "*This Old House*" and Eric Litwin, author of "*Pete the Cat*" all to appear

Columbus, Ohio — One of the annual reminders that winter will soon be on its way out — The Columbus Dispatch Spring Home & Garden Show presented by Ohio Mulch — returns for its 62nd edition Feb. 17-25 at the Ohio Expo Center.

This year, the popular event collaborated with Columbus Metropolitan Library to delight guests with "**Storybook Gardens**" – 10 backyard garden oases from Columbus Landscape Association members inspired by these tales: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Lorax*, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Wind in the Willows*, *The Secret Garden*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Tortoise and the Hare* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. The Dispatch will spotlight a dozen local authors, and *Pete The Cat* author Eric Litwin will make two popular stage presentations on Monday, Feb. 19th – President's Day, a day off school for kids. Library card holders and teachers can attend with special admission offers.

"Partnering with the Home & Garden Show gives us a tremendous opportunity to connect with families and inspire a love of reading," says Columbus Metropolitan Library CEO Patrick Losinski.

In addition, the eight-day event will feature a trio of Magical Backyard Retreats, including a backyard kitchen/pergola; a wine and book nook styled by Edwin Loy Home; and a gardener's retreat styled by Hoover Gardens. **Visitors can also enjoy** eight days of home expertise from local gurus and craftsmen; how-to sessions and demonstrations; giveaways; HGTV celebrity appearances and much more. Attendees can also register at the show for an opportunity to win a share of \$15,000 in prizes and cash to spend with participating companies.

The Home & Garden Show is proud to partner with leading companies in home improvement, landscaping and gardening in central Ohio, including our top sponsors Ohio Mulch, Rosati Windows, Rite Rug Flooring, Arrow Roofing and Lowe's.

Daily highlights include:

- **Every day:** info and educational sessions for avid and amateur gardeners, organized by the OSU Extension office that runs the Master Gardener program; "The Edible Garden" presented by Franklin

County Master Gardener Volunteers featuring a real raised-bed vegetable garden; and two-for-one discount admission for library card holders and wine tastings in the gardens every day after 4 p.m.;

- **Saturday, Feb. 17:** Opening Day celebrity appearances: Cambria welcomes the star of DIY Network's "**Bath Crashers**," **Matt Muenster**, and The Dispatch welcomes the mother-daughter stars of "**Good Bones**," **Karen E. Laine** and **Mina Starsiak**, plus Columbus' own **Doug Morgan**, host of DIY's "**Barn Sweet Home**"
- **Sunday, Feb. 18:** DIY day — **Tom Silva** from "This Old House" will appear live for two presentations and a selfie session; Lowe's will present four hours of DIY workshops
- **Monday, Feb. 19:** Library Day — Pete the Cat Author **Eric Litwin**'s stage show, plus The Dispatch's celebration of notable regional authors including **Margaret Peterson Haddix**, **Mindy McGinnis**, **Jennifer Maschari**, **Robin Yocum** and more. Sixteen authors in all, plus special library story time and readings in the gardens
- **Wednesday, Feb. 21:** Gardening Lovers Day with a special emphasis on garden programming for both the casual and expert gardener, and garden clubs with presentations on both stages all day; plus two appearances and a book signing by best-selling author and horticulturist **Tracy DiSabato-Aust**
- **Thursday, Feb. 22:** Alive Craft Beer Night (additional charge) presented by Third Sun Solar, that includes special food samples from six local Dine Originals restaurants, plus Dine Originals dueling-chef stage demos from 1-3 p.m., when every half hour 10 audience members will receive the Dine Originals Columbus Deck with 52 coupons to local restaurants (\$520 value)
- **Friday, Feb. 23:** Alive Craft Beer Night presented by Third Sun Solar, featuring tastes of new and old favorites (additional charge; no food samples on Friday).
- **Saturday, Feb. 24:** Kids Day, with **LEGOLAND Discovery Center** on site all day. Kids can meet Bertie the mascot and build their own unique designs in giant LEGO® brick pits, plus **Columbus Zoo** animals and other special kids activities like **Lowe's Plant & Grow** and free **Child ID's** from the Franklin County Sheriff. Also, a stage appearance from husband-and-husband team **PJ and Thomas McKay**, from HGTV's "Down to the Studs."
- **Sunday, Feb. 25:** **Pop-Up Arts Fest**, created by The Columbus Arts Festival, spotlighting 10 local artists who will display and sell their art, and participate in sessions on the Simple Bath Home Stage.

Inside the show's two buildings, guests will find 350+ local, regional and national craftsmen and professionals covering every area of the home, outside and inside. Attendees can explore emerging trends in homes and gardens, with access to plenty of expert advice. Plus companies will feature exclusive offers available only to attendees, like \$100 Ohio Mulch gift cards available for \$80 only at the show, and free tomato cages to every guest who wants them.

Show hours are as follows:

- Saturdays, Feb. 17th and 24th — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sundays, Feb. 18th and 25th — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 19th — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 20 — CLOSED
- Wednesday Feb. 21st, Thursday Feb. 22nd and Friday, Feb 23rd -- noon to 8 p.m.

The Dispatch Spring Home & Garden Show presented by Ohio Mulch will take place Feb. 17 through Feb. 25 at the Bricker & Celeste buildings at the Ohio Expo Center at the State Fairgrounds, located at 717 E. 17th Ave. in Columbus. Admission for adults is \$13 at the door; \$10 plus convenience fee online courtesy of a discount from Logan AC & Heat Services. Guests can pick up a \$3 off coupon at Central Ohio Lowe's locations. Library card holders receive a special discount when they present their library card at the ticket window: \$3 discount anytime, two-for-one admission on Monday Feb. 19 (Library Day) and every day

after 4 p.m. Children 17 and younger are admitted for free courtesy of Parkfield Insulation. Teachers (K-12) receive free admission on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with school ID, courtesy of OCLC, as do Military and First Responders, courtesy of Hamilton Contractors. Attendees can return to the show free with non-transferrable re-entry passes available at the information booths. Parking is \$5 cash per visit. Fans can Like the show on [Facebook](#) to learn more about vendors and receive news updates. They can also follow the show on Twitter [@DispatchHGShow](#) for the latest updates.

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