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**“GARDENS FOR A GREEN EARTH” AT THE 2012 SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW!
Annual Festival Expands its Appeal with well-known Chefs, Celebrity Designers, Sustainable Exhibits and
Kid Friendly Fun**

November 28, 2011 (SAN FRANCISCO) --- Nothing welcomes Spring like the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, the largest, world-class garden festival of its kind in the western United States www.sfgardenshow.com. Now entering its 27th year with a greener approach that celebrates “*Gardens for a Green Earth*”, this annual festival will be held Wednesday through Sunday, March 21-25, 2012 at the San Mateo Event Center, conveniently located midway between San Francisco and Silicon Valley. Tickets available at the door for a single day admission for \$20. A five-day bargain pass is only \$25, a half-day pass is \$15 and children under 16 are admitted free at all times. Discounted advance purchase tickets cost \$16 and special group rate for 20 people or more are available online - in time for holiday gift giving.

Twenty full-sized garden installations from top Bay Area designers (including John Greenlee and Mike Boss creating one of their signature meadows, the Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning Department of the University of California at Berkeley and New Zealand Sculptor Brent Summers) will teach attendees of all ages how to create “Gardens for a Green Earth”, with a strong emphasis on forward-looking, environmentally friendly techniques that can be accomplished in private gardens. Amongst the parade of celebrities speaking and demonstrating their skills will be Annie Somerville, a recognized pioneer in promoting organic cuisine and gardening through her restaurant Greens, and Wendy Johnson of Green Gulch Farms. Martin Yan will delight us on Sunday. Ahmad Hassan of DIY Network’s Yard Crashers will be talking about the swift and easy way to achieve the garden of your dreams. Joe Lamp’l of Growing a Green World is back to delight with earthy pearls of wisdom.

“The Flower & Garden Show is a complete celebration of the California lifestyle and how we connect to our environment,” explained Show Producer Katrina Agamau. “We will show people how easy it is to promote a greener world and to create beauty and utility in the same place. Because food has become so much a part of our identity, we will have more edible gardens and a wine tasting area created by the Livermore Valley Wine Growers Association. Many of our speakers will be show us all how to quickly plant and eat from edible gardens. So much is possible in our mild Bay Area climate”.

While experienced garden aficionados will be more than excited by the scores of seminars and book signings by top experts on a range of topics - flower arranging, design trends, water conservation, lawn alternatives and cutting edge growing walls - the festival is designed to be equally accessible to interested newcomers and area visitors seeking a unique outing. A Marketplace with over 200 vendors selling plants, seeds, tools and fabulous gift items, a special Children’s Garden called *Sproutopia* with fun-filled, hands-on learning opportunities, and a special fragrant flower show put on by the California Garden Clubs are among the several draws that will delight attendees from all over the Western U.S. and make this an annual activity for savvy Bay Area denizens and their families.

The 27th Annual San Francisco Flower & Garden Show is held at the San Mateo Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive in San Mateo, a 25-minute drive from San Francisco and just one block from the Hillsdale Caltrain Station

(Note: BART riders can connect to Caltrain at the Millbrae BART Station). Parking is available at a cost of \$12 for the entire day.

Show hours are Wednesday, March 21 to Saturday, March 24 from 10am to 7pm and Sunday, March 25 from 10am to 6pm. Admission includes all regular seminars and demonstrations. For Advance Online Ticket Sales, General Show Information and a calendar of seminars, chef demonstrations and film showings, visit www.sfgardenshow.com. Tickets can also be purchased at major Bay Area nurseries and garden centers or by calling 925-605-2923.

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Photos: Available upon Request,

Photo shoot requests can be arranged by contacting kay@sfgardenshow.com – before show time please!

Some of the Specialists Available for Interviews

Drought tolerant plants

Bonsai

Water Conservation

Edible Gardening

Preparation of food from the edible garden

Flower Arranging

Garden Design and Construction

Contemporary design trends

Green living and gardening

The environment and gardens

Recycling in the garden

Rare and new plants in the garden

Composting

Container Gardening

Succulent plants and their use in the garden

Keeping chickens

Xeriscaping