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After the rollercoaster ride we have had with winter weather, we are all ready to have a taste of spring, and that is just what you will get at the 26th annual Arkansas Flower & Garden Show Feb 24 – 26 at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock.

Local Roots is the theme this year showcasing beautifully landscaped gardens, a full lineup of garden seminars, flower competitions, educational exhibits, children's events and an opportunity to shop from garden vendors. Regardless of the weather outside, the sun is always shining inside on this must see event.

The Arkansas Flower and Garden Show is produced by the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show, Inc., a not-for-profit volunteer organization dedicated to promoting the discussion, dissemination, and exchange of the latest information and new ideas on gardening, landscaping, and horticulture practices to the public through educational programs and materials, demonstrations, displays and exhibits. The show opens at 10 a.m. Friday and runs until 7:00 p.m. with a special event with live music and food trucks called "Rock in the Garden". Saturday hours are from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Sunday the show opens at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and children 12 and under are free. A three day pass may be purchased for \$15.

The Arkansas Flower and Garden Show also has a philanthropic side. From college scholarships and Greening of Arkansas Grants, the show gives back to Arkansas. Proceeds from the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show support the Greening of Arkansas grant program which provides grants for community beautification projects throughout Arkansas. Over \$50,000 has been given to communities across Arkansas to beautify public areas such as parks, community entrances, and schools. Grants are awarded to non-profit and civic groups for beautification projects on public land. Grant amounts are up to \$1500 and 50% of the funds must be used for horticulture (trees, shrubs, and flowers). College scholarships are given annually to students attending a college in Arkansas and majoring in horticulture related field. The show also works closely with the Arkansas Master Gardener program, utilizing hundreds of volunteers to set up and work the show. In return, the show helps sponsors the annual Master Gardener statewide conference.

In addition, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service will have a huge display showcasing raised bed vegetable gardening, backyard poultry, water conservation, beekeeping, container gardening and more. The state plant pathologist will be on hand to diagnose plant problems, and the family and consumer science agents will be on hand with tasty food demonstrations and tips on food preservation. Arkansas 4-H will have hands on activities for kids of all ages all three days. Master

Gardener volunteers will be all over the place volunteering in many capacities at the show.

A new feature will be held on Friday from 10:00-2:00. The Landscape Challenge will showcase local landscapers constructing home foundation plantings *live* at the Show. Come see how they do what they do.

Hour long seminars this year will be in the Pope and Fulton Rooms downstairs. Two concurrent sessions will be ongoing Friday and Saturday. In addition shorter topics will be held all three days in the how-to sessions on the show floor.

Complete details on the seminar descriptions and speaker bios can be seen at the website: <http://www.argardenshow.org/>

The “flower” part of the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show is highlighted in blooming plants in display gardens, flowering plants for sale, but also through the efforts of the Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs and the Arkansas Florist Association. Both have spectacular displays. The Garden Clubs are presenting “ART-rageous”, an Advanced Standard Flower Show. Many beautiful floral arrangements, plant specimens, and educational exhibits will be on display. The Arkansas Florist Association hosts a tabletop competition with competitors creating their masterpieces in front of attendees to the show on Friday morning. Once created, they will be on view for the remainder of the show.

Sunday is Family Day at the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show! Kids can attend two free [Hands-on Gardening Workshops](#) from 11:00-3:30 in the [Fulton Room & Pope Room](#). These make and take projects will delight the young gardener.

This is the premier garden event of the year, so you don't want to miss out. For more information or to pre-purchase tickets online go to: <http://www.argardenshow.org/>
Or call 501-821-4000.