Good afternoon everyone and thanks for choosing *Across the Fence*, I am Will Mikell in this afternoon for Judy Simpson. Our focus this afternoon is flower shows they of course serve a variety of purposes and among things they mark the start of a new growing season. They perhaps provide some inspiration in our own gardens. This afternoon we welcome two of our region's most well-known horticulturists. They've had the opportunity to visit flower shows all across the country and they're here today to show us what they've seen and learned. Joining me are UVM Extension horticulturist Leonard Perry and alongside Leonard is gardening consultant Charlie Nardozzi. Nice to have you both here. Leonard give us an overview; what are we going to see this afternoon?

Leonard.: As you mentioned flower shows are a great place to get ideas and inspiration in the spring. I had the good fortune this year to go to Portland Maine again to actually judge a show are. So I got behind the scenes before which we will show at the end but Charlie got a chance to visit some of the top largest flower shows. We will see some smaller regional shows and then some of the real granddaddy's around the country.

Will.: Charlie what were some of the places that you've spoken at?

Charlie.: I went to Seattle, Philadelphia, Chicago, all over the place and San Francisco. The first show we went to was the Northwest Flower Show out in Seattle. That show the theme this year was all about floral and music. Flowers and music combining. The two slides we have up there actually the top left hand side we have an Arbor and a Pergola and there's drums. They are hard to see but there's drums and they're there and water would rip down with a rhythmic melody as you're walking by which was really kind of cool. The bottom one has a nice pond and of course there's a harp and you can imagine falling asleep on your day bed on a nice warm summer day.

Will.: And hopefully not falling into the pond.

Charlie.: And not falling in the pond at the same time.

Will.: But it's nice and relaxing.

Charlie.: The next one you see is very colorful, very artistic, a lot of edibles in this one. It’s Seattle so you have a lot of the urban influence through that a lot of art in the garden and it highlights and showcases the foliage that is out there. You see a lot a glass at that show a lot of colored glass ornaments and
things. The next slide you can see this is a classic one that you see music and flowers. Here is a piano and the piano bench is overflowing with orchids just a beautiful display of orchids in there and some telanzias and other kinds of plants that are mixed in. A lot of these displays would actually have musicians up there at different points in time playing the piano playing the harp so you can have music happening at the same time. And the edibles tend to be really big. Here is another shot of the piano in the background with all have performers later. I actually saw belly dancing performance at one of the stages up there too. They cross a lot of the ethnic lines. But edibles are really big this year to and this is a wall of lettuce. They have a lot of vertical gardening going on out in Seattle a lot of edible gardening and this is all different kinds of varieties of lettuce fed through a hydroponic system a really cool idea for your landscape. The next show is the granddaddy of them all this is the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Will.: This is one whose reputation precedes itself.

Charlie.: Exactly. 1/4 million people go to the show every year, it is huge. The theme this year was Hawaii.

Will.: So go to Philadelphia to get to Hawaii.

Charlie.: So this is what you see when you walk in. They have these fabrics going up and round and you are trying on the fabric all these different lei flowers floating and the white streams are all orchids. So you walk in here and Hawaiian music and it's like you're under water feeling these lei flowers floating above you. Then as you walk in there's more music playing and the Tiki hut there with lots of orchids in the foreground. There's musicians playing up there and are being projected onto the hot so you can see them singing traditional Hawaiian songs. There's a huge 30 foot mountain with a waterfall cascading down right mix and that.

Will.: Were you welcomed with a traditional lei or something?

Charlie.: No I wasn't. 1/4 million people that's a lot a leis.

Will.: But still those orchids are fantastic.

Charlie.: Yes and then they have smaller table setting displays and this is a classic Hawaiian wedding table with pineapples, orchids and all kinds of tropical plants. You can almost imagine having it in your backyard when your kids get married.

Will.: Tropical—that would fit in our backyard.

Charlie.: It would work really well. Then in the next one, water again is always a theme. If you're going to go to Hawaii you're going to have a beach so they actually recreated a small beach with a hammock, palm trees, just very relaxing you can almost hear the whales breaching off in the distance.

Will.: I feel a little warmth from the white sand.

Charlie.: There we go. Then the last one and it's time to go surfing. There you go Will your 1960 Subaru or whenever that is.

Will.: I think it was the seventies Charlie. I said before we got started I recognize that vehicle there was a least one of them in our household absolutely. Original Subaru's.
Charlie.: You can talk a while without talking surfing so they had that there as well.

Will.: You guys asked me if the Subaru had as a surfboard and I said no as in Vermont it had the skis on it.

Charlie.: It had skis but the same idea. Then we headed to the Midwest to the Chicago Flower Show. That Chicago is not as big as these other two that I mentioned but it's still in an urban setting and has a nice theme. This year's theme was all about fashion and fashion in the garden so they had mannequins that were dressed up with vermilliads and all kinds of different plants as if it was a fashion show. The green lawn was like the green carpet as they walked down the runway. As you go on they had we just kept one that was the Days of Our Lives but this is one with the environmental theme. This is a green roof that they had there which was one of the themes of the show beyond just fashion. Speaking of environmental themes. We're switching back this is the Days of Our Lives you remember that soap opera?

Will.: A few years back I think I recognized more old movie cameras as opposed to today's video cameras.

Charlie.: Yes it was the anniversary for Days of Our Lives soap opera and the cast was there and they recreated one of the scenes right there at the flower show.

Will.: Complete with cue cards That we see on the left.

Charlie.: Exactly. Then the green roof we showed before and of course the White House garden the vegetable gardens of the White House. They had a big tribute to that which was really nice a lot of different raised bed gardens there trying to inspire more people to grow things in urban settings.

Will.: As you point out an important theme that we saw earlier. The lettuce wall; you saw the living wall we see the vegetables there it does remind me Leonard you and I did a program not too long ago on living walls here in Vermont.

Leonard.: Right there are all these themes. That's a place you wonder where if you can get to the show's or just read about them and look at them and catalogs and that's where a lot of these people get ideas and designers and that's where you see the new themes and popularize them and like to say those are some key themes right now and trends in gardening.

Will.: Charlie I love the connections with the music and again pointing out whether it's harp or piano that there's a cemetery there with flowers and music. I don't know enough to go too much further but again you can almost hear it as you see these pictures.

Leonard.: It's appealing to all the senses.

Charlie.: And the flower shows really feature a lot of artistic expression and that's what was really cool about going there not only do you see a lot of nice plants and everything but it's how they put it all together with landscape art in the garden glass and all kinds of different features. The best one I thought for that kind of feature was the San Francisco Flower Show. The San Francisco Flower Show is on the West Coast and you definitely get the feel of being on the West Coast. This is a rock wall but why do rock walls in a horizontal way such why not have them sloping as if maybe an earthquake happened? The San Francisco Flower Show really featured a lot of native plants that you can grow in that area. Here's a cool idea take the dumpsters that are hanging out behind the buildings and turn them into planters. That's
what they did here they put a huge rosemary plant in this one but it's the idea of gardening in urban space wherever you can in many different ways that you can. The art is really big out in San Francisco. This was a cool one this was huge, kind of reminded me of the musical Little Shop of Horrors. A big flower display up there, there's the dragon in the foreground and you can actually climb up the top of that tower and looked down at the rest of the show. There's water cascading out of flowers into a pool that's hidden behind the dragon so it gave you a cool sense of art in the garden and also a nice view of the whole show. And if you're in California you have to have some citrus. Here's a great little cottage garden a little kitchen garden that has espalier lemon tree, espalier of course is a great way to grow any kind of fruit in a small space and in the sense they give you an idea of how to do it on a side of a wall just growing lemons up there. You can have lemonade whenever you like it. A real creative artistic display. Actually went to a garden center in San Francisco named Flora Grubs Garden Center. I love that name Flora Grub. Her own garden center is all about this contemporary art stuff. She has old cars that have plants growing through it for example and living walls all over the place. Very different than the east coast garden centers you would see.

Will.: Each one is so unique building on themes again we know from around here that the citrus theme whether it's going to be lemons or oranges that's not something we can see or experience.

Leonard.: We could have apples in our area and have the apple juice instead of lemonade.

Will.: I think he's developing themes for future Vermont Flower Shows.

Charlie.: I think so; there you go.

Will.: Seriously you're going to bring us a little bit closer to home after we've moved around from the West Coast, Midwest and then you're in Portland Maine.

Leonard.: Portland Maine. Not only here can you see what they projected on the floor there at a smaller show a little bit different from these but still you can get some ideas. We will just go through several of these. One of the themes this year was hard skating that's big and another thing now you see in landscapes that being walls and patios and fire pits. But the theme this year was celebration so all kinds of ways to celebrate. Of course I like to celebrate with trains so I had to throw picture of this in.

Will.: I have to pause us there. Longtime viewers will know are Leonard is a train enthusiast, so just perfect. You've taken us to some places Williston, North Hero some of the train gardens.

Leonard.: We do have a train society here in Vermont even ‘G scale’ large scale outdoor trains. That was there which was great to see all represented. It didn't win an award but in my book it did so. This was another one that didn't win an award but very creative it's fairy gardens. Little house is the theme here was fireworks and you can see the weeping plants in the background spider plant looking like fireworks and Spanish moss and the trees. If you get close up a lot of detail. Every one of those cactus is different. If a low number by it and a book on the side so you can open the book look up the number and read all about that cactus name culture and so forth. You can learn a lot of these. Course of the celebration a lot of party kind of things. Here we see a table and a Japanese Garden. This is a large type of ecuacidium horse tail. The smaller ones are weeds in garden's but here there in a pot used for affect along with some other typical Japanese elements such as moss and paving materials here. A mix of textures pretty much except for the green moss of all hardscape type materials. Another garden which did win some awards. This was a big huge urn focused here with some raised bed plantings. In the back an amphitheater and again like you might go to our show and have a picnic with a bottle of water whenever classes just very nicely planted and you can just imagine sitting on the lawn stay up listening to a concert
here. It didn't have the music as in other shows but one of these exhibits did have birds in the background so they did bring that in. This was one of my favorites that looks so New England: Portland Maine this was really neat because it was down by the waterfront in old shipbuilding warehouses so too great theme there is a birch fence the wooden building and outer on deck chair blue delphiniums. This was a large exhibit that several things going on as far as celebration, areas to celebrate. Here you can see that big path a lot of forced bulbs tulips and daffodils very nice signage. Here's a tulip sign with the picture on it of the flower and the places grown. Tulips and daffodils all mixed up flowering shrubs a bench to sit on. How about that for having an nice pizza and that of and they recreated on this table all made for this flower show put together a lot of work as you can see goes into these. It doesn't have to be complex it can be as simple as this. Sitting there are beautiful flowers a few daffodils on the table when it's not raining sit out.

Charlie.: And a bottle of wine and you're all set.

Leonard.: Yeah you're all set. This was one of my favorites it did win an award that this represented edible gardening and this was very neat in the sense that it's celebrated people gardening that had physical disabilities so raised beds all kinds of vegetables even fruits growing in pots. Here you see an example of what you can do at home. To some flowers and lettuce grown in a pot something that simple. You can get a lot of little ideas.

Will.: Great themes from all around the country. As we close up here just a couple of minutes to go you told me before we got started the Vermont Flower Show does return?

Leonard.: Right. It's an every other year show it wasn't this year so next year 2013 March first through third at the Champlain Valley Expo fairgrounds in Essex Junction again March first through third 2013, mark your calendars. A local show and they have great plans again for that.

Will.: And you told me there was a way through greenworksvt.org?

Leonard.: Yes: greenworksvt.org the nursery association will have information on that.

Will.: All right swinging over here we have a couple websites we want to give out because you have a tour that you put together. Tell us?

Charlie.: Yeah Leonard and I are going on tour get on the bus.

Will.: Strike up Willie Nelson and get going.

Charlie.: There you go. July 23rd and 24th Leonard and I are leaving on a bus tour, an overnight bus tour to the gardens of Western New England so we're heading south going down to Fort Ticonderoga, Hildene in Manchester stopping at The Mount / Edith Wharton’s famous estate. Nam Teh which is a famous landscape that’s there and the Berkshire Botanic Gardens which is a cool small botanic garden very approachable lots of great ideas. We will spend the night down there and then will head back up and stop at Equinox Nursery in Manchester so it's going to be a lot of fun we did a similar tour last year to the gardens of the Connecticut River Valley and now are on the other side of the state.

Will.: Very quickly Charlie, how can folks get more information about that tour?

Charlie.: You can go to my website: charlienardozzi.com or for Leonard's web site: perrysperennials.info and there’s a registration and all kinds of information there.
Will.: All right I want to thank you both for being with us, absolutely great themes and a lot of fun. We know you have choices so thanks for choosing us I am Will Mikell in for Judy Simpson, inviting you to join us each weekday for another visit *Across the Fence*.

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