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**BELGARD**  
HARDSCAPES  
Chicagoland  
**flower &  
garden  
show**

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*Photography Garden* focuses on works inspired by nature  
**Amateur shutterbugs share their best works inspired by nature and vie for \$500 cash in a photo exhibition at the Chicagoland Flower & Garden Show**

The beauty of nature is fleeting. Tulips in spring last but a few weeks. Hardy impatiens bloom a little less brightly by summer's end. Even the mighty oak sheds its last leaf with the first blast of winter. But the artistic impulse to capture the loveliness of the natural world never wanes.

The **Photography Garden** at the **Chicagoland Flower & Garden Show** celebrates the ardent eye of the amateur shutterbug with a display of 30 botanical images selected from hundreds of entries. The show runs Saturday, March 8, through Sunday, March 16, 2008, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road in Rosemont, Ill.

Throughout the first week of the show, visitors may cast their vote for the best picture by donating \$1 to benefit local charities. The winning photograph this year wins a **\$500 cash prize** and in 2009 will be highlighted on the Chicagoland Flower & Garden Show's Web site, our Guide and at the Show



Last year's winning photo (shown here) was taken by Marylynn McLaughlin of Wonder Lake, Ill. Shot with single lens reflex camera, her winning image captures a Japanese garden in San Mateo, Calif.

Ms. McLaughlin, who had never exhibited her photo work before, entered the contest almost by accident. She had gone to the Chicagoland Flower & Garden Show Web site to check the dates of the event last year, when she saw the call for entries.

"My father was a photographer and grew roses," relates Ms. McLaughlin, "so having my photo chosen really meant a lot to me."

Show hours are 9:30 a.m. until 6 p.m., Saturdays through Wednesday, and until 8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, the only evening when there are free refreshments and entertainment after 5 p.m. Adult admission—which includes a new, concurrent **Home Lifestyle Expo** and opening weekend **Fine Art Show**—is \$14 weekends, \$12 weekdays and \$20 for a two-day pass. Tickets for children aged 4 to 12 are \$5 every day. All-day parking is \$11.

You can order tickets online by visiting [chicagoflower.com](http://chicagoflower.com), where no service fee is charged. To purchase tickets for groups, call 773-435-1250 x249. Individual tickets are also available at the door.

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FYI Color photos of garden displays, interactive programs, individual plants and flowers are available in JPEG format. Contact Sheila King Public Relations or visit [chicagoflower.com](http://chicagoflower.com) and click on Media/Press.

Please visit [chicagoflower.com](http://chicagoflower.com) Tuesday mornings for news updates.

[www.chicagoflower.com](http://www.chicagoflower.com)