

# WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

August 2010 Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 7

CELEBRATING 13 YEARS

2821 Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73116

(405) 879-1121 [www.wilshiregardenmarket.com](http://www.wilshiregardenmarket.com)

Established 1997

## INSPIRATION IN ABUNDANCE AT ATLANTA MARKET

Nearly every July for 13 years we've awakened at 4:30 a.m. to catch the 6:35 a.m. flight to Atlanta and the International Gift Market. This year we were



able to sleep an additional luxurious 30 minutes. Once we touched down, it was only a 20 minute Marta ride until we checked in at the Marriot Marquis, a nice if unusually shaped 46 story hotel that reminded us of a spine and ribcage piped with pulsing music. As we were making reservations months earlier, it was a little difficult to find rooms, a good indication that many buyers were attending, signaling economic recovery. And in fact, every hotel room in downtown Atlanta was sold out. We stashed our luggage and headed out to start our 2010 Market shopping adventure.

One uphill block later, we arrived to register at Building 1 as it opened in order to take advantage of every available moment of browsing its 20 floors of

alluring showrooms. Arriving on the first day of Market has always ensured that we were among few shoppers, making it quite simple to shop, open accounts, get brochures, and ask questions of the vendors, designers, and owners. This year, however, there were quite a few buyers there along with us, reaffirming our impressions about the economy.

Our browsing began in The Gardens, two floors of showrooms lining gardenlike pathways marked with sweet names such as Rose Bower Row or Lily Lane. A morning spent there unearthed beautiful glass hummingbird feeders, a new collection of cast stone containers and statuary, birdbaths and fountains, topiaries and torches, patio furniture, new



outdoor rugs and doormats, to name a few. We tried on pairs of bamboo garden gloves to find the most comfortable. This year the vendors ramped up the creativity from product to display; it was inspiring! In following days, we branched out into the three 20 story buildings connected by aerial walkways.

Along the way, we met up with some of our vendor



friends. Our long term relationship with Barry, our outdoor pillow vendor, allows us to have some input into designs; while we were there he asked our opinions on how best to color coordinate certain new designs with existing ones.

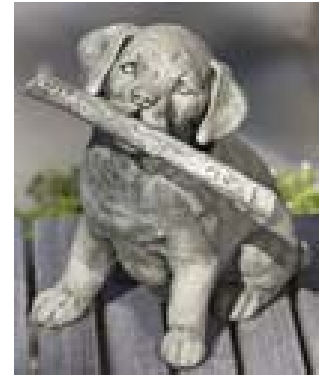
While in the same showroom, we had an opportunity to receive a signed Bobble, a newly released reverse filter plastic water bottle that will last as long as 300 prefilled water bottles. These should be appearing at sports stores in the near future.



We are pleased that we found new fragrant candles, a new upscale range of outdoor pillows and rugs, very nice gift items, and more outdoor living and home and garden accessories that we think you will enjoy using and giving. They will continue to arrive over the coming weeks; stop in to see our exciting finds.

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE STORE

We have received a small shipment containing garden statuary. A number of bird and dog statues have arrived along with a cast stone console table to embellish any summer garden and patio. The outdoors is a large area, always with room for a new piece of statuary. A new



pot or statue can easily refresh a tired garden that has been wilted by the heat.

Well priced, this console table is a unique addition to a patio or outdoor



living area; it is available in a dozen finishes to match any decor.



This 6'3" square outdoor rug in silver tones will be a beautiful fall addition to a patio. Square is a very versatile shape. We have ordered outdoor pillows and tablecloths that will coordinate well

with this elegant design and color way.



We have received beautiful chunky French soaps that are imbued with 72% olive or palm oil and delightful scents including lavender and lemongrass.



The soap vendor formerly lived in France and became very knowledgeable about the properties and value of their soaps. He explained that the French grate flakes of this soap into their washing machines for the laundry.

We were excited to meet the owner of a new upscale pillow company; she is British and her designs are



refreshing and refined. With the look of indoor pillows, their fabric is made with Sunbrella thread allowing them to be used outdoors at all times.

Some of these pillows have thick fringe, some are sophisticated animal prints, and others have complicated texture or embellishments that the designer called "jewelry". They can be made using faux down for extra softness without the consequence of being ruined by rain.

Our pillows are currently being made,, shipping in a couple of weeks, they will bring the elegance of interior decorating to the outdoor setting.

Another exciting find is hand hooked outdoor rugs that look like interior carpet. Our indoor areas have long been adorned with the warmth, softness, and color of indoor rugs. However, for years all outdoor carpets looked like Astroturf. With that in mind, this carpet company developed the Dura cord yarn that provides a head to toe experience in comfort and beauty while boasting weather and fade resistance. We have ordered just a few to let our customers see their high quality; there are dozens of patterns and colors available.



## MEET POTTER MIKE PALUSKA

For 10 years Mike Paluska has displayed and sold his pottery in Wilshire Garden Market.



His corporate life has been as a Mechanical Engineer. Business trips to the Far East have introduced an Asian influence into his ceramic work. He began taking pottery lessons as a hobby in 1999 with noted potter. Mike is currently a pottery instructor at City Arts Center.



We have sold scores of his ceramic toad houses over the years. it is gratifying to know that there are so many well housed toads out there.

One of our customers has no toads but has a patio tortoise, "Sheldon". In addition to her own shell, Sheldon has an XL custom Paluska house.

His toad houses are signed and make great gifts for the gardener who has *almost everything*.

## AUGUST TO DO LIST

- Keep garden tidy.
- Edge beds with shears for clean edge.
- Water everything deeply.
- Deadhead annuals and perennials or give them a good haircut—sometimes a plant can't look any worse.
- Add mulch to level of 2" to retain moisture and lower soil temperature.
- Prune once-blooming climbing roses and ramblers.
- Make weekly pass through garden to pull weeds that steal water and nutrients.
- Order spring bulbs now to make sure you get the ones you really want.
- Divide older bearded iris rhizomes.

## EXTERIOR DECORATING

This year give yourself a garden retreat, or refresh the one you have. In response to repeated requests, Wilshire Garden Market now provides an exterior decorating consultation service. By appointment and for a fee, we will make a consultation visit followed by written suggestions to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, and useful. Call the store for more details or to set up an appointment.



Let us help you create your outdoor living room!

## JOIN US FOR 10 DAYS IN THE UK



- Visit Chelsea Flower Show!
- Admission on private day just after royalty and press with your Royal Horticulture Society membership.
- Private lecture by Fergus Garrett, gardener at Great Dixter.
- Visit Lacock Alley and Fox Talbot's botanic garden.
- Walking Tour of Bath, RHS Garden Rosemoor, Dartmoor National Park
- Visit Cotehele Manor House and Garden House in Plymouth
- Visit Stourhead in Wiltshire, stay at Four Seasons Hotel.
- Ride a classic barge on Basingstoke Canal, sip ale in 17<sup>th</sup> century pub.
- Tour Wisley, RHS flagship garden
- Highlights of London
- Visit Sissinghurst and Great Dixter with private lecture on topiary, mixed borders, meadows, and more.
- Group of 20; friends for life!
- May 18, 2011 to May 28, 2011
- Private coach, four star hotels, experienced tour guide.
- Est. cost \$5,000; save by using airline miles. Includes nearly everything.
- Deadline to register and pay: Dec. 1, 2010

**You are invited!!**

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