

Gardens will resemble art galleries

By Jim Welker

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

This year's Central Ohio Home & Garden Show celebrates a variety of artists — from local sculptors to French impressionists — in honor of the theme "Art in Bloom."

Wood Landscape Services in Hilliard, on the other hand, is featuring its carpenter, David M. Morgan.

Morgan is no ordinary carpenter. He is an artist who has displayed pieces in a Manhattan gallery and has held several shows in central Ohio.

The folks at Wood Landscape didn't know all that when they hired him last summer for his skill at building wooden decks, trellises, arbors and fences. They knew he dabbled in art on the side, and they gradually came to realize the extent of his talent.

So when the landscaping company learned that the garden show would highlight the connection between nature and art, they looked in-house for the art part.

"When I saw the theme, I got excited about the prospect and approached David," company owner Tom Wood said. "We talked about how we could utilize his talents as an artist and



David M. Morgan with his *Galaxy* series

TOM DODGE | DISPATCH



► The Central Ohio Home & Garden Show will run through next Sunday at the Ohio Expo Center, I-71 and E. 17th Avenue.

See **GARDENS** Page H2

GARDENS

FROM PAGE H1

incorporate that into the show.”

The result is a 10-piece sculpture series called *Galaxy*, made of copper and aluminum tubing and colored glass discs that suggest solar systems and planets in motion. The pieces, incorporated throughout Wood Landscape's garden, lend movement, energy and color to the display.

The display, along with others at the home and garden show, was unveiled yesterday and will be on view until the show ends next Sunday.

Morgan is thrilled with the chance to expose his art to an estimated 80,000 spectators.

“It's one thing to have a show in New York or in nice galleries, but it's another thing to show before (thousands of) visitors who aren't there really to see this,” Morgan said. “They're there to see windows or doors or landscaping contractors.

“They'll come in and see this thing they weren't expecting to see — and I'm

If you go

HOME & GARDEN SHOW

The Central Ohio Home & Garden Show will run through next Sunday at the Ohio Expo Center, I-71 and E. 17th Avenue.

The show is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays; 3 to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; noon to 9 p.m. Wednesday and Friday; and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday. It will be closed Monday.

In addition to about 400 exhibitors and 13 gardens, the show will feature several expert and celebrity appearances, including:

► **Today:** Melissa Hoover of Melissa Hoover Landscape Design, noon on the Garden Stage; Henk Berbee of Leo Berbee Bulb Co., 3 p.m. on

the Garden Stage

► **Tuesday:** Chris Ahlum of Ahlum & Arbor Tree Preservation, 5 p.m. on the Garden Stage

► **Wednesday:** professional organizer Kathy Morgan of Space Transitions, 4 p.m. on the Home Idea Center Stage

► **Thursday:** *Ohio Magazine* Editor Richard Osborne, 3:30 p.m. on the Home Idea Center Stage; Jennifer Schneller of Melissa Hoover Landscape Design, 4:30 p.m. on the Garden Stage

► **Friday:** Feng shui expert Diana Garbier of Intuitive Concepts, 12:30 p.m. on the Garden Stage; Barb Arnold, plant expert with the Franklin Park Conservatory, 2 p.m. on the Garden Stage

really excited by that.”

Wood might be the only landscaping company at the show to feature an artist on staff, but most of the 13 garden displays incorporate art of some sort.

Riepenhoff Landscape's garden is inspired by Claude Monet's famous garden paintings, while Five Seasons Landscape

Management's garden incorporates the look of Louis Comfort Tiffany, best-known for his stained-glass designs.

Other landscape companies commissioned central Ohio artists to supply the art. Yard Solutions in Grove City hired well-known sculptor David Hostetler, and Seely's Land-

► **Saturday:** Jamie Durie, host of HGTV's *The Outdoor Room With Jamie Durie*, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the Home Idea Center Stage; animals from the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, 1:30 p.m. on the Garden Stage

► **Next Sunday:** Geof Manthorne and Mary Alice Yeskey of the Food Network's *Ace of Cakes*, 11:30 a.m. on the Home Idea Center Stage; Gwen Davis, plant expert, Franklin Park Conservatory, 11:30 a.m. on the Garden Stage

Tickets cost \$10 at the door or \$8 in advance at Home Depot. Children 12 and younger are admitted free. For show details, visit www.dispatchevents.com.

scape Nursery hired Denise Romecki, whose ceramic sculptures often reflect nature themes.

“I've done a lot of pieces that have ended up in gardens,” said Romecki, whose work is displayed in a Short North gallery. “Art and gardening just go naturally together.”

jweiker@dispatch.com