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Top Drawer



By WETA RAY CLARK, Staff Writer

Pop art

Fashion your own 15 minutes -- make that 15 years -- of fame with Warhol-style pop posters of your family. The panels -- which gained a certain fame in movies and magazines and on such TV shows as "Desperate Housewives" -- can be had for less than \$200 through www.photowow.com. The graphic gift company, based in Los Angeles, turns your photo into original artwork in under two weeks. That's enough time to order up a swell Christmas present for the grandparents. You can choose from among 40 or so designs and art styles, including pop, cubism, watercolor and more. Then select color combinations, size, texture and framing options. Visit www.photowow.com or call (800) 453-9333.

Green on green

Know somebody who grows the extra mile to help others? Scotts Co., the makers of Miracle-Gro, is ready to reward gardeners with its Give Back to Grow Awards, which for six years has been "recognizing extraordinary gardeners who give back to their communities," said Jim Hagedorn, chairman and CEO of Scotts Miracle-Gro.

Four first-place winners will receive \$5,000, and two finalists in each category will receive \$2,500. Categories are Classroom Gardener for teachers who include gardening in their curriculums; Urban Greenup Gardener for volunteers who use gardening for inner-city renewal; Community Beautification Gardener for volunteers committed to environmental stewardship through beautification of a main street, park or neighborhood; and Good Neighbor Gardener of the Year for volunteers who have helped feed the hungry in their communities with

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produce donated to food banks.

All it takes to enter is a nomination form with a description of the project and photos of the garden in bloom. Find forms at www.scotts.com/gbtg or by calling (866) 565-3554. Deadline is Dec. 2. Winners and finalists will be announced on or before Feb. 3.

Ch-ch-ch-cheery plant

Do you talk to your plants? Do they talk back?

Don't worry, your funny family might have planted the Amazing Message Plant, a plant that blossoms with a secret message. After the plant's first watering, the germination process takes seven to 10 days and the message is revealed. The twining type plants are virtually maintenance free, only requiring indoor sunlight and occasional watering.

"You get daily inspiration by watching these plants grow," says Tony Berendes, president of Miracle Products. "It's much more exciting than opening a fortune cookie."

For more information, see www.message-plant.com. or call (888) 416-4722.

Golden oldies

The North Carolina Antiques Show & Sale trundles into the new State Fair Exposition Center at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh Nov. 18 to 20. The twice-yearly show, sponsored by the Woman's Club of Raleigh for more than 40 years, features furniture, fine and estate jewelry, silver, crystal, vintage linens, fine botanical prints, majolica, continental porcelain and American folk art.

Included in the \$7, three-day admission ticket are several events: At 2 p.m. Nov. 18 Becky Phillips, executive director at Fort Defiance Museum, will talk about dating vintage photographs and clothing. At 1:30 p.m. Nov. 20, Emyl Jenkins, an antiques columnist for 20 years, reads from her first novel, "Stealing with Style." Thomas Gray from the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts will sign his book "The Old Salem Toy Museum" during the show. If you have some old stuff, or potential antiques, have items appraised at the Ask the Experts Conservation Clinic, where you'll find experts in silver, crystal, porcelain, textiles, fine art and photographs.

For an additional \$20, get tips from floral designer Ron Morgan from 11 a.m. to noon Nov. 19. Admission includes lunch.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. For information, see www.womansclubofraleigh.org. or contact Mary Rollins at 782-5599 or antiqueshow@womansclubofraleigh.org.



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