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**CRACKED POTS RECYCLED GARDEN ART GROUP TO EXHIBIT AT
2012 YARD, GARDEN & PATIO SHOW**

Portland – Twenty Cracked Pots artists, who create garden art from recycled materials, will be exhibiting at the 2012 Oregon Association of Nurseries' (OAN) annual Yard, Garden & Patio Show (YGP), presented by Dennis' 7 Dees Landscaping and Garden Centers, according to OAN director of events and education Allan Niemi.

Art items range from small to large, from good value to invaluable, from quirky to stylish, from modern to rustic. And all are made from a minimum of 75 percent recycled or repurposed materials.

“Cracked Pots is a favorite every year at the Yard, Garden & Patio Show,” Niemi said. “The group’s message of sustainability is obviously important, but the art is incredibly striking and compelling on its own. We’re excited to have them back.”

Notable Cracked Pots artists for 2012 include Marta and Steve Farris, a wife and husband team who make mid- to large-sized garden sculptures often from large fuel tanks (4' x 6'). Steve specializes in huge garden urns reminiscent of Greek amphoras; Marta creates abstract panels, colorful metal flower sculpture and leaf circles, among many other things.

Tim Foertsch creates metal sculpture incorporating solar lighting, using propane tanks primarily. Foertsch is an amateur artist and a first-timer at YGP. Kimberli Matin creates garden sculpture figures from recycled steel that used to be automobile parts or industrial pieces. She is also a first-time YGP exhibitor.

Founded in Portland in 1998 by garden designer Tess Beistel and artist Mary Lou Abeln, Cracked Pots, a nonprofit, was created to build stronger communities

through grassroots, sustainable art projects. Cracked Pots is now made up of more than 150 local artists and craftspeople. The nonprofit exhibits the work of many Northwest artists who make provocative garden and non-garden art from reused, recycled and reimagined materials such as scrap metal, glass, reclaimed wood and fabric. At the root of it, Cracked Pots' mission is to build connections between the public and groups committed to environmental, educational, artistic and gardening issues.

The three-day Yard, Garden & Patio Show will be held February 17-19 at the Oregon Convention Center. Show hours are Friday and Saturday, February 17-18, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m., and Sunday, February 19, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The Oregon Convention Center is located at 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Portland, OR.

The Oregon Association of Nurseries, based in Wilsonville, represents more than 1,100 wholesale growers, retailers, landscapers and suppliers. Oregon's ornamental horticulture industry is among the state's largest agricultural commodities, with annual sales of \$676 million. More than 74 percent of the nursery plants grown in Oregon are shipped out of state. For information, visit www.oan.org or call (503) 682-5089.

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