



a.k.a. 'Football' Charlie, who loves to be carried like a football, is a 16-year-old Humane Society rescue and a true momma's boy. Severely stricken with diabetes and on death's doorstep in early 2003, our now-happy, healthy little "miracle kitty" is a testament of the Lord's healing power.

OET with Cheryl Morey Inspired

Discover, Learn and Get Inspired at IGC 2009!

SPRING SALES WERE EXPLOSIVE this year, with some garden centers around the country even running out of stock! That's definitely a bright spot and huge blessing. It looks like this year's Independent Garden Center Show is going to be a record-breaker as well! With an expanded educational conference, more exhibition space, strong registration counts and The Charlie Daniels Band in concert, it promises to be our best year yet.

If you've joined us in past years, you already know how strong this industry event is. You understand the underlying excitement that resonates. You've benefited from the strategic educational ses-

be time to reconsider your position:

Are your customers looking for new and different items for their gardens?

Do your customers like to get inspired with innovative ideas on how they can beautify their homes?

Do you need to get inspired with new ideas and ways to invigorate yourself and your team?

Is networking with others from around the country an important part of your business?

If you answered yes to even one of these questions, you have already decided - *The IGC Show is for you!*

How does the show offer new and differ-

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sions. You've rejuvenated your store with new ideas and products. You've discovered vendors and products you never knew existed. And you've enjoyed the fellowship and networking, not to mention the concerts and the city of Chicago.

If you haven't joined us - you put it off, or you just haven't felt it is worth attending - let me give you some reasons why it may

ent items for you? Every one of our 900-plus booth spaces and 500-plus vendors will present you with products or services you can offer to your customers. These are vendors who sell exclusively to IGCs or are IGC-friendly. That means every exhibit on the floor is important to you and your business. There's a lot of ground to cover - 5 acres' worth! Pack your walking shoes.

How can you get inspired with innovative ideas both for your customers and your team? Our educational conference offers six tracks, 33 individual sessions and three explosive keynotes - and *all of them* pertain to you and your operation. There just isn't another place you can find this volume of information. It's all here.

Networking. With a record number of registrants from across the country, you are afforded the opportunity to not only catch up with old friends but make new ones. You have the opportunity to discover new things others around the country are trying. From there, you can modify them, if necessary, to fit your individual circumstances and locale. You have an incredible resource from which to draw.

Be prepared. Like any good Boy Scout, you need to come prepared. Plan enough time. The No. 1 comment of concern we've had about the show is, "I wish I had planned to be here longer - I just can't get to everything!" I realize it can be hard to get away and you need to guard your time. Time is precious and in great demand. Some things, however, are worth the time invested, and I thoroughly believe The IGC Show is one of those things. Not just because it's ours - rather I truly believe this event is your event from beginning to end. It was born out of a desire to see the industry served in ways we feel you had not been served or appreciated before. It was born out of a passion for not only what we do but a passion for gardening - and a true passion for this industry.

It is based on a desire - our desire - to see each and every one of you continue to grow. Not just because it's good for business but because it's good for the soul. Nature and its beauty are calming. They calm these anxious days and comfort weary souls. Nature is one of God's gifts to us. Gardens bring us back to the very basics in life.

So come, and move forward with us in a revitalized direction. Discover, learn and *get inspired!*




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See us at Booth T18