

# Kinssies comes up golden at garden show

## Redmond resident wins award for tranquil display

By MARY STEVENS DECKER  
Redmond Reporter

Redmond resident John Kinssies was a big winner at last month's Northwest Flower and Garden Show at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

His company, Kinssies Landscaping won a Gold Award and Garden Creator's Award for his display called "Tranquility in the Wilderness." He also won the Arboretum Choice Award at the preview gala — "the fancy, expensive ticket party where you meet all the celebrities," he noted.

For that event, each guest received a sticky note to vote for their favorite display. Each garden had a box to collect the notes and when the boxes were taken away, people who still hadn't cast their votes were putting their sticky notes on the rocks at his display, said Kinssies.

And that's not all. He also won the Fred Palmer Award which is bestowed by peers, other display creators at the garden show.



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"The phones have been ringing off the hook."

Kinssies Landscaping was founded in 1987 in Kirkland, where Kinssies graduated from Lake Washington High School. Now based in Woodinville, it is a full-service business offering common maintenance programs such as mowing, edging, blowing, pruning and fertilization. But it's creating artistic displays with water features that excites him.



"I believe I have a God-given talent that is meant to be shared with others," he remarked. "I spend a lot of time in the woods or in the mountains, sitting in front of water features to see how the rocks and water interact. When I can bring it down to where people can enjoy it, it changes lives."

He explained that at this year's garden show, a girl in a wheelchair pulled up to his

display, sat there staring at it for a while and then said to him, with tears in her eyes, "I can't believe you did this. You made this where I can see it. I can't go up in the mountains, but I feel like I'm there."

Kinssies hopes to someday create water features exclusively.

"My father passed away last October," he said. "I spent time with him in Florida while he was ill and created a water feature for him. Whenever I

can, I go fishing or hiking and get ideas from there. When you go through something like that, you realize that you have to take time to do the things you love."

For information about Kinssies Landscaping, call (425) 869-0529 or visit [www.kinssies.com](http://www.kinssies.com).

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