



MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION

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Grocers Award Creative Contest Best of Show Winners

Coveted Awards for Cake Decorating, Deli Tray Display, Floral Arrangement, and Gift Basket Design

St. Paul, MN - The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is pleased to announce the Best of Show Winners for the 2008 Creative Contest which was held on July 27 - 29, 2008 at the MGA Annual Convention in Brainerd, Minnesota. The event was attended by over 450 industry representatives.

The Creative Contest Awards recognizes the best in cake decorating, deli tray display, floral arrangement and gift basket design. All must demonstrate use of the event's theme, "The Big Luau." Entries are submitted by grocers from across the state in each category. All entries are judged by a panel of industry experts, and winners are selected based on creativity, theme, difficulty and budget. Additionally, a Peoples' Choice is awarded by industry peers in attendance. Winners of the Best of Show Awards receive a grand prize of \$200 each, courtesy of the Minnesota Grocers Association.

The winner for **Best of Show in Cake Decorating** was **Mackenthun's Fine Foods, Waconia, MN**. The cake was a colorful design depicting an island pig roast, and the use of the event's logo created added difficulty.

The **Deli Tray Design** winning **Best of Show** was from **Cub Foods, Woodbury, MN** and took the judges to an exotic island get-away with the exquisite arrangement of fresh fruits in a tiered display. This entry was the buzz of the evening taking the honors of the **Peoples' Choice Award**.

The **Best of Show** winner for **Floral Arrangement** was **Cub Foods, Shorewood, MN** with a design that incorporated a flowing waterfall and tropical flowers. It was a lovely showcase of the big island.

Winning **Best of Show** in the **Gift Basket Display** was an ingenious design incorporating a grass skirt, tiki coffee mug and countless island snacks provided by **Cub Foods, Maplewood, MN**.

All participating company finalists did an outstanding job captivating the essence of a "Big Luau" and Minnesotans would be fortunate to have any of the Minnesota Grocers Association members add a touch of uniqueness to their next gathering. Invite your local grocer to get creative – they do it so well!

The Minnesota Grocers Association is a state trade association representing the food retail industry since 1897. With over 200 retail members operating nearly 1,200 stores statewide, as well as 120 manufacturers and distributors, the MGA is truly the voice of the industry. Our member companies employ over 85,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. Focusing on the importance of the consumers, careers and communities, we actively advance the common interests of all those engaged in any aspect of the retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.

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