

2011 Annual Garden Tour Provides a Wealth of Ideas for Plant Lovers



With a theme of “Garden Gems”, WSU Master Gardeners in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties have scheduled their 14th annual Garden Tour for Saturday, July 23rd. This year’s tour showcases six truly extraordinary private gardens located in Aberdeen and Central Park.

Stepping into someone’s garden is much like a treasure hunt—you’ll never know what you may find and this year’s tour will not disappoint you. The detailed descriptions of each of the individual gardens listed in the ticket brochure provide insight to the horticultural and artistic talents of local gardeners. Ranging in size from a garden paradise that encompasses 4 entire building lots to a small garden that borders the Wishkah river, each of the six gardens has its own palette of plant combinations that validate our cool, cloudy climate is an ideal place for those whose passion is growing plants.

You won’t want to miss the formal garden high on the hill in Bel Aire with its fountains, fishpond, and manicured hedges of yew or the medical clinic garden in downtown Aberdeen that showcases a host of medicinal plants. Those focused on edible plants will enjoy the garden that features an orchard full of tree fruit varieties along with berries and vegetables that thrive in our coastal climate.



There’s no question that art is as much a component of gardening as knowing the difference between a rose and peony. While each of the six garden on this year’s tour reflects their owner’s style and palette of color, those with an artistic flair will be inspired with the garden that has a unique potting shed and a porch filled with antiques and garden art.

For gardeners there’s nothing that excites a sense of adventure more than being able to go inside the gate of a private garden. You don’t need to have a green thumb—just a sense of adventure and delight in seeing some of the best gardens the Harbor has to offer. Tickets, which cost \$10.00 and include a detailed description and directions to each of the gardens, can be purchased from: Marshall’s Garden and Pet in Aberdeen, Harbor Drug and Gifts in Hoquiam, Value Drug in Montesano, Elma Variety Store, Everyone’s Video and More in Raymond, Coastal Garden Center in Grayland and Gallery Marjuli in Ocean Shores. Tour hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. WSU Master Gardeners will be on hand as docents at each of the gardens to help identify plants and answer your gardening questions.

Included in this year’s tour, will be a book signing from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. by Don Tapio, author of “More Than Just a Green Thumb.”

