

Bainbridge in Bloom is this weekend, July 14 and 15. If you'll miss this event, there's still time to purchase tickets for the Second Annual Summer Splendor Garden Tour in Silverdale. The tour is the weekend of July 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Heck, keep the whole weekend free because you also won't want to miss the Olympic Koi Club Pond and Water Garden Tour on Saturday, July 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Purchase tickets for the Olympic Koi Club tour at Roadhouse Nursery on Central Valley Road or Clear Creek Nursery on Clear Creek Road. Tickets are \$5 for adults and free for children under eighteen. It's absolutely necessary to supervise children on this tour because one pond is seven to eight feet deep. The tour features eleven gardens.

If you've ever dreamed about having water features or ponds at your garden you'll gain first hand information. At least five of the ponds featured are brand new or have been added since last year. The ponds range in size from a few hundred gallons to 20,000 gallons. It's a great time to talk with people about owner-built ponds. Most of the gardens and water features have been built by the owners themselves. You can learn about filter systems and see the plants, fish and ponds. Call Jan and George Bahr at Roadhouse Nursery 779-9589 for additional details.

This event is sponsored each year by the Olympic Koi Club to provide information to the public about water gardening. The proceeds also provide a little bit of funding for the club. Jan Bahr said it gives the club members a chance to introduce themselves to others and hopefully gain some new members. "We're like any other garden club; except there's more hardware involved," said Jan.

Summer Splendor is sponsored by the Silverdale Chamber of Commerce to benefit the Clear Creek Trail Project and the Sa'qad Interpretive Center. Tickets are \$15 purchased through the chamber by calling 692-6800 or purchased the day of the tour. You can also visit the chamber's website at [www.silverdalechamber.com](http://www.silverdalechamber.com) and order tickets online.

Tours start at the Sa'qad Interpretive Center. Take Ridgetop Boulevard, turn right onto Levin Road which will lead into a business complex. Parking is available between Washington Mutual Home Loan Center and the Smith Barney Building. A path to the Clear Creek Barn – Sa'qad Interpretive Center is between these two buildings. Volunteers will direct you to free parking areas.

An evening event on Saturday July 21 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. features Ciscoe (CORRECT SPELLING) Morris and a poetry reading from Mary Lou Sanelli, author of "Women in the Garden." Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments are provided. Tickets are fifteen dollars. Twenty-five dollars purchases admittance to both the garden tour and the evening event. If you've never met Ciscoe Morris, now's your chance. You won't be sorry you purchased a ticket.

Summer Splendor features the gardens of Curt and Lynette George; Jeff Pryde and Dawn Vahcic; the Hansel Ranch of Jim and Jean Hansel; Bob and Sue VanDahlen and George and Jo Schaefer. The George Garden combines perennials, shrubs and trees. Visitors will also discover a waterfall and pond with a cedar bridge made from cedars harvested from the property. The Pride-Vahcic garden provides abundant ideas for shade gardening, perennial gardening and water gardening. Visitors will discover a waterfall, woodland area and a majestic view of the Olympics. The Hansel ranch features an orchard, aviary full of cooing doves, a greenhouse, a pond and Jim's shop where he handcrafts decoy ducks. You'll also get ideas for using vines in your garden.

The VanDahlen and Schaefer gardens share property lines. Orchards greet visitors at the beginning of both gardens. Tour-goers will enter the VanDahlen garden first featuring poppies, clematis, iris, peonies, hydrangea,

contorted filbert, roses, delphinium, larkspur, wisteria, a flower covered hillside and views of Port Orchard Bay. Visitors will meander along the water and enter the Schaefer garden. A gazebo will invite rest and repose. The Schaefer's Victorian home is surrounded by foxglove, honeysuckle and roses. Hardy fuchsia and other nectar rich plants beckon hummingbirds. As visitors exit they'll enjoy trees, rockroses and an abundant vegetable garden.

What are you waiting for? Buy some tickets and have fun wandering through all these gardens. You'll enjoy the respite from your own gardens and come home with a wealth of ideas. Happy Gardening!

*Send comments or questions to Peg at [gardenmentor@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenmentor@yahoo.com) or in care of this newspaper.*