

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 6-19-02) , ©2005

I hope you remembered to get your tickets for the Gifts of the Garden Tour in Port Orchard this weekend June 22 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can still get tickets at the tour starting point, Cedar Springs “Pavilion by the Lakes,” 7354 Bethel Burley Rd SE. Tickets are fifteen dollars per person. Proceeds benefit the Kerry Ogden memorial Scholarship Fund for disadvantaged youth.

While you have your checkbook or credit card handy why not also book tickets for Bainbridge in Bloom. Purchase tickets for \$25 online at [www.gardentour.info](http://www.gardentour.info) or call 206-219-3182. Outlets are: Bainbridge Chamber of Commerce, Bainbridge Gardens, Bay Hay & Feed, Port Orchard Nursery, Valley Nursery and Winslow Hardware & Mercantile. All proceeds benefit the non-profit Bainbridge Island Art and Humanities Council (BIAHC).

I had a sneak peak at some of the tour gardens and thought I'd tantalize you with two. Ray and Jere Sheldon's Garden is called “Collector's Delight” in the ticket brochure. It's in an established development and has an abundance of delightful plants in a relatively compact space. If you've ever entertained the thought of creating ponds or raising Koi you'll want to see this garden. Jere and Ray are eager to share their mistakes and successes with visitors. Sheldon's recently built their own pond in the last year and will give timely tips and advice.

Jere told me how she wanted a fence-arbor for privacy along the driveway running along the property. Both Ray and their building contractor shook their heads and took quite a bit of convincing but Jere prevailed and the results are extremely satisfying and sense-enhancing. Take time to revel in a shady natural wall of foliage and flowers.

Traveling the walks around the front of the house I was intrigued and envious of the majestic pots with colorful and textural plantings. Near the front of the property notice the harlequin glorybower (*Clerodendrum trichotomum*). The back of their garden borders the golf course but Sheldon's still have plenty of privacy provided by their elegant and tantalizing choices of plantings. I wanted to linger and talk with Jere all day.

The Brian and Andrea Mackin Garden is the perfect family garden (Mackin's have four children). Both Brian and Andrea are happy to share the story of their garden's evolution. It has grown from a very shady to a sunny garden surrounded by cooling paths, ponds and marshy areas. Severe storms and even last year's earthquake forced change in their garden. Plantings are still under construction but you'll see the amazing potential.

This garden invites kids both young and young-at-heart to linger longingly. Both Brian and Andrea are artists and the design of their property reflects their artists' souls. You'll also have an excuse to stay and sit a while because lunch is being provided by San Carlos Restaurant. If you rest on the patio near the house make sure you gaze down the walk

leading to one of Brian's incredible Aquamarine glazed giant vases with a ginger-jar base and fluted opening. Ask him how he creates and constructs his amazing works of art.

The garden is only six years old so you'll need to take along a notebook to jot down ideas. Andrea is a gardener and designer in her own right but designing and planting a "virgin" garden is a daunting task. Cassie Picha (In the Garden Design) and Wendy Burroughs worked on the design of the Mackin garden. I'll feature a column on Cassie and Wendy in the future when they're done getting ready for Bainbridge in Bloom.

If you have children you'll want to notice all the kid friendly features in the Mackin garden. David Harris carved and built a sandbox from a downed tree in the Mackin's yard. There's also a water slide for the kids. One of the plants in the woodland area is right out of "Jack and the Beanstalk." It's a *Cardiocrinum giganteum*. It was already eight feet tall and I'm wondering how tall it will be on July 13 and 14. I'll be returning during the Bloom to find out for myself.

Other gardens on the tour are those of Tanya Lundgaard, Ollie and Janice Pederson, Nick and Marj Masla, and Gayle Bard. You'll also want to check out the Marketplace Venue which include offerings from: Bainbridge Island Flower Farm, Four Corners Design, Frog Rock Lavender Farm, Hooplah!, Kingston Worm Farm, Nature's Gifts, Oasis Naturals, Ocean Sky Farm, Octopus Garden Honey, OHO Clothing and Accessories, Port Madison Farms and Rolling Bay Inspirations.

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