

Don't miss the KCCHA South Kitsap Gifts of the Garden Tour June 19 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. You'll find delights galore. Every garden is festooned with ideas for the seasoned and fledgling gardener. Tickets are fifteen dollars. Call Gloria at 360-535-6163 to purchase tickets or locate a ticket location near you. Or begin at Cedar Springs the half acre oasis created by Dan and Leanne Landon where you can purchase tickets; have a bite to eat and shop the enticing vendors' offerings. Shuttle buses leave this location regularly.

Stephen and Corrine Harris have created a five-year labor of love where "east meets west" marrying English Cottage gardens with Asian influences. Stephen used over 14,000 bricks to create paths connecting the whole wonderland together. Gates, trellises and fences lend additional structure and interest. The Harris family loves their garden and enjoys sharing it with visitors and neighbors. Stephen's favorite plants are the dogwood and lupines reminding him of his native North Carolina. Corrine loves the variegated sedge and the Japanese maples and mosses. Islands of plant groupings include a shade garden full of hostas, ferns and hydrangea; a cutting garden; evergreen clusters; specimen trees and climbing roses galore.

The stately home of Sue and Rob Putaansuu was overgrown with trees and hedges. When the back garden had to be demolished for drain work Putaansuu's added enhancements. A formal front garden features established evergreens, rhodies and heirloom plants. The back garden remodel includes a sandstone patio, substantial stone bench, two ponds and waterfall creating a bird and woodland creature habitat. Sue knows the botanical names of every plant in the garden and Rob says he just can't stop buying plants from his friend Sean Olmstead at Clear Creek Nursery in Central Kitsap. Future plans include a vegetable and herb garden.

J. B. Hall and Rebecca Guthrie have lovingly tended their property and charming one-hundred-year-old Yukon Harbor home surrounded by a series of garden rooms. A shed was renovated into Rebecca's sewing room replete with a porch and antique windows. A stone wall lines the front of the home and a forest green fence surrounds the entry garden areas. One garden room holds "everything I found on sale," says Rebecca. Plants festoon containers, trellis's, arbors and rebar garden art. Be sure to look for the black and white cow's head – Rebecca moves it around the garden. Two huge water barrels to collect storm water were lovingly painted by a friend. A kitchen garden is located near a doorway. You'll also want to linger in the greenhouse area and the vegetable garden. A huge bigleaf maple provides a shady retreat at the water's edge. "Rebecca's Garden" offers a bouquet of ideas to inspire every imagination.

Don and Patricia Grimes garden begins with "the back yard." Patricia's nephew helped Patricia convert an old carport into a potting shed and greenhouse lined with Statuesque Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*). This area features a substantial pine tree, bonsai-pruned *Wysteria*, bluebells, *epimidium*, *trillium*, *hebe*, *monkshood*, *clematis*, Japanese

maple, tree peonies and iris. Patricia collects peonies and dahlias and repeats plantings throughout her gardens using shades of yellow, white and blue. Don loves white plants so Patricia tries to add punches of white whenever she can. Stepping stones are scattered throughout the property. Each set of stones is different. Look for hexagons, fish and spangled circles. The back path leads into the sunny and expansive front garden overlooking Yukon Harbor. You'll find a peony hedge and kiwi arbor. Patricia uses mostly water wise plants and tries not to water at all leaving it up to mother nature. A rain barrel does capture water for irrigation when needed. You'll want to savor the textures and colors of this collector's garden.

On Long Lake pairs of immense New Zealand Flax flank the long driveway into the Lynn and Dale Tauscher Christensen garden hinting at pleasures to come. They've combined his skill with heavy equipment and her's as a garden designer to create a gardener's wonderland. Every shape, color and size of New Zealand Flax is married with rhododendrons and other textural evergreens to tantalize the eyes. Tall sprinklers for irrigation are camouflaged with twisted copper tubing; and bowling balls, ceramic orbs, and decorative stones are tucked throughout the garden. It would take weeks to observe all the nuances of this artist's garden. Hugely impressive tree trunks and stumps are incorporated into the garden's design. Salmonberry Creek meanders through the property into Long Lake. The vegetable garden features striking purple trellises and tantalizing fruit trees. You'll take home a plethora of inspiration and ideas from this designer and artist's garden.

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