

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 6-30-04) Bainbridge in Bloom, ©2005

You won't want to miss this year's Bainbridge in Bloom the weekend of July 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are available at Port Orchard Nursery in Port Orchard and Valley Nursery in Poulsbo. On Bainbridge Island purchase tickets at Bainbridge Chamber of Commerce, Bainbridge Gardens, Bay Hay and Feed, Flowering Around and Winslow Hardware. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 4-12. If you want a real splurge attend the "Private Preview and Garden Party" on Friday July 9. Tickets for the Preview can be purchased by visiting [www.gardentour.info](http://www.gardentour.info) or by calling 206-842-7901. There are several price packages available. Last year Bainbridge in Bloom raised over \$115,000 to benefit the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council. The proceeds from the Bloom represent nearly one-third of the entire operating budget for the BIAHC.

Hop on the free shuttle buses on Saturday starting at either Woodward Middle School or Sakai Intermediate School. On Sunday you can catch the shuttles from Bainbridge High School or Sakai Intermediate School. The shuttles leave the park and ride lots every ten minutes and continue to run all day until approximately 5:30 p.m.

In addition to five incredible gardens you'll find a plant sale with tantalizing temptations from Sundquist Nursery and Mesogeo Greenhouse at the Cochran Garden. The Dashiell Garden hosts handpicked selections of new and out-of print gardening titles from Fortner Books and an Art Fair ranging from fine art on the edge to exquisite garden furniture. You'll also find a poster sale of the current and past Bloom posters plus Cappuccinos Espresso (Mary Richards, owner). Enjoy a Luncheon by Seasons of Thyme (Sharlyn Nodsle, owner) while listening to speakers at the Cobb Garden.

Highlights each year are lectures by stellar Northwest garden gurus. This year on Saturday June 10 at 11 a.m. you'll want to hear Cheryl Smith talk about her new book "Dog Friendly Gardens: Garden Friendly Dogs." At noon on Saturday catch Terri Stanley and Terry Moyemont of Mesogeo Nursery for information about Mediterranean and tropical plants to grow successfully in Pacific Northwest Gardens. Sunday July 11 at 11 a.m. Michael Moshier, landscape designer and botanical illustrator of "Lewisias" by B. LeRoy Davidson and contributor to the new book "Rock Garden Design and Construction" will discuss plants, soils and designs for rock gardens. Ben Cooper, manager of Northwest Rock will show designs for rockeries, ponds and waterfalls. "Oooh-La-La," Ciscoe is featured on Sunday at noon. He'll share his favorites among all the latest and greatest plants; you'll absolutely want to rush out and buy some.

The garden of Linda Ayriss has an interweaving of native and ornamental plants throughout the 2-1/2 acres of landscape. Your spirit will enjoy the flower-filled English cottage garden, a moss-carpeted woodland texture garden and a seasonal stream sliding beneath a majestic old-growth stump. Notice the sculptural waterfall and garden pool bordering a sunny deck. Curving beds combine maples, rhododendrons, pieris, native ferns and huckleberries. Low curving river-stone walls surround mature cedars. In the sunny area of the garden you'll find herbs and vegetables.

Return once again to Linda Cochran's tropicalissimo garden. A few of this renowned collector's featured treasures are dactylorhiza, veratrums, hepaticas and arisaemas. The garden is splashed with a pink granite terrace and a stunning bronze lioness amongst feathery grass. You'll salivate over the tree peonies, witch hazels, grevilleas and eucalyptus. The front garden offers dry land plants: yuccas, agaves, nolinas and dasyliirions.

The Jennifer Cobb garden hosts territorial and water views. It's a hilltop garden combining Jennifer's passion for flowers, fruits and vegetables into a well-stocked four-season potager garden. The garden provides local restaurants with cut flowers for many months while keeping family and friends well-fed. Don't miss the homemade rockery and pond and see if you can find the family's pet frog, Fred.

Robert Dashiell's garden includes striking stonework and rock, trellised Concord grapes, vivid red path, arts studio with an indoor koi pond, bog garden, vintage fruit trees and a peaceful pond tumbling into a seasonal stream. You'll approach the garden beneath magnificent trees through an entry drive emerging at a stone arch.

Lafe Myers and Hanni Crissey have a garden with sweeping views of Rich Passage. Notice the textural blends of grasses and perennials edged with red and yellow twig dogwood and red flowering currants. Water flows throughout the property from a planted shade garden pond to a stream bubbling through well-placed rocks to the shore. Look for the whimsical artwork from painted trellises to a family heirloom wheelbarrow. Two featured trees are Antarctic beech and a majestic sequoia.

What are you waiting for? Get your tickets and get ready for Bainbridge in Bloom!! You'll be glad you did.

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