

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 06-15-05) Bainbridge In Bloom © 2005

This year's Bloom promises to be the best one yet. The tour is July 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the Private Preview on Friday July 8. Visit [www.gardentour.info](http://www.gardentour.info) for tons of information and a sneak slideshow of photos from the gardens. Once you see the photos you'll be even more eager for the date to arrive. Tickets at \$30 for adults and \$15 for children from 4-12 are available by calling 206-842-7901 or at the following locations: on Bainbridge at Bainbridge Chamber of Commerce, Bainbridge Gardens, Bay Hay and Feed, Flowering Around, and Town and Country; Savage Plants in Kingston; Port Orchard Nursery; and Central Market and Valley Nursery in Poulsbo. All proceeds from this event benefit the Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council "creating an environment on Bainbridge Island in which the arts and humanities flourish."

The Private Preview and Garden Party is Friday July 8. This event is open to exclusive ticket holders at three levels to choose from: \$125 Garden Enthusiast (includes a self-guided tour of five gardens plus Bloedel Reserve, 2005 Garden Tour Poster and unlimited visits to the gardens Saturday and Sunday); \$175 for Patron (includes all Garden Enthusiast amenities plus a garden dinner party at Bloedel Reserve Friday evening) and \$350 for Benefactor at limited availability (includes guided tour with Seattle garden designer Lorene Edwards Forkner to all five gardens, luncheon at a secret sixth garden and all of the Patron amenities).

The gardens are accessed only by shuttle bus service from Bainbridge Island High School. Volunteers serve as tour guides on the buses and will narrate tidbits, history and lore of Bainbridge Island. Five gardens are featured, incredible vendors are at the Art Fair (and plant sale) and speakers for the Lecture Series are: Lorene Edwards Forkner, garden designer and owner of Fremont Gardens; Sue Thompson of Hartstine Heirloom Gardens in Shelton; Phil Wood, Phil Wood Garden Design and "Garden Design" Sunday columnist for the Seattle Times; John van den Meerendonk, Botanica (garden design firm); Cisco Morris, garden celebrity extraordinaire; and last but not least Bainbridge Island's own Barbara Denk (photographer for "A Garden Gallery: the Plants, Art and Hardscape of Little and Lewis" and "The Abundant Garden: a Celebration of Color, Texture and Blooms."

New arrivals in the event this year include "Bike the Bloom" tickets at \$20 per person and a map and bicycle parking at the gardens so you can bike the Island savoring the Bloom from a totally unique perspective. If you don't have a whole day to spare visiting the gardens you can still attend the Art Fair, Plant Sale, Food Court and Lectures at Bainbridge Island High School from 9:30 to 5:30 Saturday and Sunday. Both ticket holders and the general public can attend this venue.

Another new feature for the Bloom is "Sustainable Garden Practices Demonstrations." The gardens on the tour exemplify stewardship of the land and environment. This opportunity is the result of collaboration with the Bainbridge Island Watershed Council and the Natural Landscapes Project with collaboration from local and island experts and organizations dedicated to education and preservation. Four of the five gardens will

feature interactive demonstrations and lots of resource people to answer questions and generate ideas. Featured speakers and displays include: Weed Warriors (Noxious Weed information and displays); Russell Link author of “Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest;” Olaf Ribeiro, Ribeiro Plant Lab, Inc.; Jim Trainer, Treez, Inc.; Bainbridge Island Forestry Commission; Nick Penovich of Lawn Jockey (organic lawn care) and WSU Master Gardeners to answer horticulture questions at all the gardens.

Last but not least spend lots of time luxuriating in the gardens: “Water and Wildlife” the garden of Nathaniel and Marianne Yocom; “Vistas and Vine Maples” the garden of Norman and Marcia Landry (designer Susan Calhoun of Plantswoman Design); “Green Cathedral” the garden of Jill and Dennis Curtin (designer Shelly Johansson of Farmhouse Floral & Garden); “Past, Present and Future” the garden of Joanne Onorato, Joe Tschida and their three children; and “Brambles to Beauty” the garden of Herb and Leatrice Eiseman (designers Jo and Nyle Hartley of Bony Fingers Farm). This year each garden features culinary food temptations and a pre-reserved luncheon in the Landry Garden. Food at the gardens is provided by Mon Elisa’s, Island Ice Cream and Coffee, and Young Life.