

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 7-04-07) Bainbridge in Bloom © 2007

This year's Bainbridge in Bloom Garden Tour is July 13 through 15. Don't miss this important highlight of the summer gardening season in WestSound. Here's a sneak peak at this year's stunningly outstanding and inviting gardens. Each of the garden owners is passionate about gardening and that love is reflected in their landscapes. Their enthusiasm for gardening is spilling out into their community as they open their gardens for this important fundraiser for the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council.

The garden of Ginny and Tom Brewer is at the end of a peaceful shady trek down a country lane. Bloom goers will enter the garden through a green cut metal moon gate. Circles are repeated throughout the garden with several more moon gates, flowing paths, round fire pit and two spherical above ground reflective pools. This woodsy retreat includes inviting garden rooms, a pottagere garden replete with greenhouse potting shed, whispers of water elements, and abundant luxurious plants.

Martha Pyne's garden is literally packed full to the brim with blooms of every shape and size. Butchart Gardens move over. If flowers died and went to heaven this would be it! It's a garden extensively and abundantly planted in flowers, flowers and more flowers. Its amazing strength is in the myriad plantings. Every plant in this garden is lovingly planted and tended by the owner. Friends send their reject or extra plants here for resurrection into new floriferous life.

Cassie and Doug Picha, local landscapers, have a magnificent gardening passion. After a day of giving pleasure to others through incredible garden designs and installations, the Picha family returns home to enjoy a truly sustainable garden and to continue planting more and more in their own landscaping. This elegant yet utilitarian estate garden meanders over several acres including a baseball field for the couple's children. Several orchards and food garden areas surround the home. Every fruit and vegetable imaginable is grown right on site along with eye and sense appealing ornamental gardens too.

Gardeners Larry and Pat Dewey know shade doesn't have to be boring. Their shady forested retreat with paths leading around and through provides abundant delights for the senses. Groundcovers galore in many shades and textures carpet and surround the home. This is a shade-lovers garden and a peaceful retreat for the Dewey family and Bloom visitors.

Julie and Charles Everett literally carved their garden out of the blackberries by hand cutting and pulling. Everett's know every inch of their reclaimed land. Every plant in the garden has been carefully selected for enjoyment. Hardscaping includes mosaic stepping stones, flagstone walls and paths. A decorative trellis covered with hops vines and honeysuckle shelters birds. A love of glass ornamentation and artwork is echoed in unexpected ways throughout the garden. Even the chickens are given a special place with a state-of-the art home with its very own stained glass window.

Tickets to this year's Bloom can be purchased at local nurseries, at the BIAHC (Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council), and online at www.artshum.org/oscommerce. The ever popular patrons evening dinner and art auction will be held at the Bloedel Reserve this year following the special Friday Patron Day. The Patron Day (purchase a special ticket) features garden writer and luminary Mary Robson who will join ticketholders for lunch, followed by a personal tour of the gardens with Mary. The Garden Festival open to the public without admission is at Commodore School (near the High School) on Saturday and Sunday July 14 and 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.