



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie Lenox, Promotions Director
promotions@acgilbert.org | 503-371-3631

Tour Reveals Creative Solutions to Common Garden Dilemmas

April 15, 2009, Salem, OR—What to do with an unwanted swimming pool, a small city lot or a sloping yard filled with hard clay and grass? The challenges posed by the gardens on this year's Garden Tour have found inventive answers in the hands of some of Salem's most capable gardeners.

Seven gardens in all – including one featured in the May issue of *Country Sampler* magazine – make up the 14th Annual Garden Tour benefiting A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village. For two days, May 30 and 31, Salem's longest running garden tour opens the gates to private gardens and showcases not just flora and foliage but also water features, garden art and innovative work spaces. The gardens are handpicked by a committee of volunteers, including Cathy Stiles and Linda Yorke. This year's event highlights the Candalaria and McKinley neighborhoods.

"It's just such a wonderful area," explains Stiles. "We drive [down Commercial] all the time, but this tour gives people an opportunity to stop and appreciate different areas of Salem."

Visitors on this year's tour will find intimate spaces that include a mediation garden, a shed built from recycled materials, contemplative pathways lined with drought-resistant plants and a multitude of birdhouses. Gardeners will be on hand to discuss their vision and how it has evolved over time.

"I really see these gardens as very personal gardens," says Yorke. The spaces mirror the gardeners' personalities: quirky, adventurous and serene. Almost all of the gardens have been designed to draw a variety of birds, says Yorke. Bird baths and bird houses alongside whimsical garden art create a lively yet peaceful outdoor environment.

Over two days, ticket-holders can travel at their own pace, exploring some of the area's most outstanding gardens. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under and will be available for purchase starting May 1 from all Salem and Keizer Roth's Markets and at A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village. Pioneer Trust Bank is the presenting sponsor of this event with Green & Clean Lawn Care and Household Services as the contributing sponsor.

While you're out, stop by the Plant Sale, a free event open to the public at Mission Mill Museum May 30-31. Vendors will provide an array of perennials, annuals, flowers, bushes,

A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village

116 Marion Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301-3437

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trees and herbs to create your own unique garden. All proceeds from the plant sale benefit A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village and its educational programs.

Short Description:

14th Annual Garden Tour & Plant Sale
May 30 – 31, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This self-guided tour features seven delightful gardens in the McKinley and Candalaria neighborhoods. All proceeds benefit A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village. Tickets are available at A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village and all Salem/Keizer Roth's locations. The plant sale is held at Mission Mill Museum (1313 Mill St. SE) and is open to all. Adults: \$15. Ages 12 and under: \$5. A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village, 116 Marion St NE, Salem, OR 97301. Info: 503-371-3631 or info@acgilbert.org.

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For more information or images, contact Stephanie Lenox, Promotions Director, at 503-371-3631 or by email at promotions@acgilbert.org.

A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village is a private nonprofit children's museum located in downtown Salem's Riverfront Park. Founded in 1989, A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village provides innovative and stimulating educational experiences that spark children's natural curiosity. The Village's mission is to provoke curiosity, inspire awe, awaken interest, foster enjoyment, encourage learning and enable understanding in all youth.

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