



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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

Flower Power: Volunteers Fuel Salem's Longest-Running Garden Tour

April 15, 2009, Salem, OR—When Cathy Stiles and Linda Yorke get together to plan the annual Garden Tour & Plant Sale, one of Salem's longest running garden tours, they talk of peering over fences and leaving notes on gardeners' doorsteps. During the months it takes to pinpoint the precise location for the tour, the women transform (temporarily) into stalkers of the area's most attractive private gardens.

"We start by walking the streets ... we walk down alleys, peek over fences," says Stiles, describing how the committee selects the gardens for its tours, "I'm surprised we've never been turned in!"

This year their garden stalking has paid off. The tour, held over the last two days in May, brings together two neighborhoods and features seven gardens that are a testament to the love of gardening, creative cooperation and hard work. Taking place in the Candalaria and McKinley areas, the self-guided tour allows visitors to explore the creations of local gardeners and learn directly from the experts about the challenges and changes that took place along the way.

Want to know what to do with an unwanted swimming pool? One of the gardens on the tour provides a creative answer. Guests on the tour will find inspiration in the water features, garden art and innovative work spaces that blend artistry with the natural environment.

In combination with the tour, the plant sale hosted at Mission Mill Museum is coordinated by fellow volunteer Barb Crothers. She's done her homework this year, talking to other plant sale organizers and attending gardening events to assemble a collection of vendors with a delightful variety of plants for sale. Part of the fun of organizing, says Barb, is not knowing what's going to turn up.

"The vendors always bring their best stuff ... ten completely different vendors bring completely different plants," she says.

Among the three women, over 20 years have been invested into scouting out gardens and vendors for this fundraising event that benefits A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village, the nonprofit children's museum in downtown Salem.

Not only have the volunteers amassed event-planning experience over the years but they've also acquired countless perennials and annuals – remainders from the plant sale. Get to know

A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village

116 Marion Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301-3437

P: 503-371-3631 F: 503-316-3485 E: info@acgilbert.org W: www.acgilbert.org



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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

these women, because if you're a gardener, you might find them stealing a peek over your hedge one day.

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.

###

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.

A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village

116 Marion Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301-3437

P: 503-371-3631 F: 503-316-3485 E: info@acgilbert.org W: www.acgilbert.org