



# Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie Lenox  
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## Garden Tour Highlights Neighbors, Nature and Art

**Salem, OR**—It's been said that good fences make good neighbors. But that's not the case for the three neighbors along Rippling Brook, whose shared garden spaces (minus the fence) are highlighted in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour and Plant Sale benefiting A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village.

The "married" gardens of Jay and Donna Kaltenbach, Peter and Cindy Rasmussen and Paul Rice are just one stop in this year's self-guided tour of larger country gardens in Southeast Salem. 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, metal garden art and creative work spaces.

The gardens are handpicked each year by a committee of volunteers, including Cathy Stiles, who has coordinated the event almost every year since its inception. All proceeds from the event go to support educational programs at A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village, Salem's nonprofit children's museum.

While the gardens are certainly a destination this year, the journey itself is part of the experience. The tour's relaxing drive takes you out into the Macleay area where gardeners seek to balance their cultivated creations with nature. You'll see how individual gardeners have creatively addressed the unique challenges of their spaces, whether invasive wildlife or sloping

### **A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village**

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hillsides. Experienced green thumbs and novices alike will appreciate the innovative metalwork, pathways and trails and abundant garden displays.

Over two days, you can travel at your own pace, exploring some of the area's most outstanding gardens. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets 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 Wells Fargo Insurance Services of Oregon as the contributing sponsor.

While you're out, stop by the Plant Sale, hosted at Mission Mill Museum May 30-31. Vendors will provide an array of perennials, annuals, flowers, bushes, trees and herbs to create your own unique garden. This event is open and free to the public, and proceeds also benefit A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village.

For more information about these two events, call 503-371-3631

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

Cathy Stiles knows the exact number of flats that fit into the back of her car.

"Thirteen," she says

It's a good thing to know when you've been the organizer of the city's longest-running Garden Tour and Plant Sale since 1994.

When Cathy, Linda Yorke, Barb Crothers and Linda Buchanan get together to plan the event, they talk of peeking over fences, leaving notes on gardeners' doorsteps and transforming temporarily into stalkers of the area's most attractive private gardens.

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Among the four women, over twenty years have been invested into scouting gardens and collecting plants for the self-guided tour and sale that benefits Salem's museum for kids, A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village.

Not only have the women amassed volunteer experience over the years but countless perennials and annuals leftover from the plant sale hosted at Mission Mill Museum. Get to know these women, because if you're a gardener, you might find them peering over your hedge one day.

## **Garden Activities for Kids**

Kid's Discovery Workshop: Plant a Pot of Pansies

Saturday, May 31, 12 – 1 p.m.

The cheery face of the pansy is a popular choice for gardens, providing an abundance of year-round color. Students will create a planter of pansies, a garden identification label, a gift card, and poem for a complete garden gift. Ages 3 and up. \$6 members/\$11 nonmembers. A.C.

Gilbert's Discovery Village, 116 Marion St. NE, Salem, OR 97301. Info: 503-371-3631 or [info@acgilbert.org](mailto:info@acgilbert.org).

## **Evening in the Garden Benefit**

Evening in the Garden will be held in the historic Dye House at Mission Mill Museum, Thursday, May, 29, 7-9 p.m. While this event benefits youth programs at A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village, this evening is for grown-ups to mingle and sample fine wines and desserts, delight in a display of plants grown by select nurseries, and take in entertainment by some of

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Salem's finest musicians. Attendees are eligible for door prizes and get the first opportunity to purchase plants for the plant sale. Tickets are \$25 each and will be available for purchase starting May 1 at the Village and local Roth's Fresh Markets.

**Photograph Included:** A sneak peek at the gardens, art and water features to be seen at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour. Courtesy of A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village

*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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