

For Immediate Release: May 15, 2019

# Jefferson County Master Gardener 2019 Secret Garden Tour



The 2019 Jefferson County Master Gardener Secret Garden Tour will feature seven Port Townsend gardens, with docents on hand at each stop to answer questions. The tour takes place on Saturday, June 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Six of the gardens are situated at local residences. The exception is the herb garden at the Jefferson Healthcare Medical Center on Sheridan St. Tour patrons will have the opportunity to visit the medical center's Garden Row Cafe for a gourmet luncheon crafted with just-picked herbs.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the tour. Advance tickets are available online at Brown Paper Ticket or in person at Port Townsend Garden Center, Secret Garden Nursery, Far Reaches Nursery, Shold's Garden Center, Chimacum Corner Farmstand, and Valley Nursery in Poulsbo. They will also be available the day of the tour at the Jefferson Healthcare

waterside parking lot, 843 Sheridan Street, Port Townsend. Patrons are invited to begin their self-guided tours at any of the seven garden locations:

## Glimpses of the Secret Gardens

### Garden 1: Julie and Ralph Squires

From barren glacial till to a biodiverse garden with an array of blooms every day of the year, frequented by songbirds and beneficial insects, Julie and Ralph Squires have transformed their landscape. The moment the couple moved into their new North Beach home in the spring of 2014, a whimsical garden began to be born. Assisted by Matthew Berberich Horticulture, they selected primarily Pacific



Rim plants, a genre that also happens to be *very* deer resistant. The biodiversity in this small garden is high, helping to attract song birds and beneficial insects. Having a diversity of blooms every day of the year is exciting and fulfilling for Ralph and Julie, who spend enough time in the garden to keep the weeds at bay and the plants from overcrowding the beds. As the Squire's

plants have grown, so has their friendship with Matthew Berberich. It's safe to say everyone got what they wanted: soil, plants, animals, and humans.



### **Garden 2: Colleen Corrigan**

Colleen Corrigan has created a lovely woodland garden adjacent to Fort Worden State Park. She uses her natural ability and instinct to select plants with similar requirements that work well together in her landscape. Colleen discovered that Douglas fir, Cedar trees and shade are the dictators of what would successfully grow in her garden. Replacing the heavy, sticky clay terrain with plenty of organic matter, compost, and healthy soil provided her with the necessary structure. Salvaged materials such as bricks, wood, metal and pottery are tucked into *hide-a-way spots* offering visual surprises with a symphony of color, texture, and imagination.

Neighborhood plant swaps and fall nursery sales inspire her to nurture plants back to health and watch how they evolve the following spring. From an adjacent public path, walkers and bicyclists to stop to admire blue hydrangeas lighting up the backyard, along with shade loving clematis, jasmine, sparges, bleeding heart, deer ferns and ground covers lining the walking paths. Homemade benches and colorful cushions are placed carefully in hidden corners inviting rest and relaxation.

### **Garden 3: Jane Kilburn And Doug Gantenbein**

When Jane and Doug Gantenbein moved into their circa-1907 house in 2003, it had a...yard. A wide expanse of lawn without much definition, a collection of rhododendrons and trees, some decaying retaining walls made from railroad ties, and not much else. Over the years, while Jane took on directing interior remodeling tasks (including the recovery from a severe 2012 fire), Doug went to work on the outside. Today the large, two-and-a-half lot garden is an eclectic mix ranging from a



shaded Hosta garden to a secluded bamboo grove, to large beds with everything from pine trees to Japanese maples, spirea and peonies. Boxwood hedges and timber edging along the property now give the still-large lawn some scale and shape.



#### **Garden 4: Jefferson Healthcare Herb Garden**

The Jefferson Healthcare (JHC) Herb Garden originated in 2012 to support the facility's Garden Row Café, as part of an integrated approach to health. Chef Aaran Stark teamed with garden designer Jill Alban to showcase JHC's dedication to local and fresh foods.

Today's experience in the herb garden includes basil, thyme, bay, tarragon and mint plus edible flowers, rhubarb, an heirloom cherry tree and modern columnar apples. Located near the new main entrance seen from Sheridan Street, the facility offers a pick-up site for Red Dog Farms, Finn River and Midori Farms Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs. Much of the garden is wheelchair and walker accessible.

Enjoy the garden and for an extra treat, you may purchase a gourmet lunch at the Garden Row

Café from 11:30 to 1:00. *Above, Chef Daniel in the garden.*

#### **5: Linda Heurtz And Ken Clatterbaugh**

At the Heurtz/Clatterbaugh home, what was originally pasture land and a quackgrass plantation is now a small urban garden built around a pond. Quackgrass was removed by hand although its ghosts continue to reappear, mostly at night.

The entire lot is the garden that surrounds the house. A thicket with taller trees graces the front, a shade garden in the breezeway welcomes you, bushes and roses bloom in the north (note the large Tibetan peony), while perennials and vegetables grow in the south. The pond with its Arctic and Nishiki willows is a haven for birds and frogs. The low-double fence effectively keeps deer away while providing support for clematis and lonicera. The entire system including containers is watered by an automatic drip system.

Gardening philosophies differ, Linda likes a small bit of order with aesthetic considerations whereas Ken's love of chaos lives by the idea "if it comes up there, it has a right to grow there,

unless it's a weed." Through negotiation Linda's pots and Ken's vegetables are blended together into a mix of food and beauty. Wander on the hazelnut paths and enjoy their efforts.



### **Garden 6 – Darin Vercoe**

Located along one of Port Townsend's public trails, Darin Vercoe's Habitat for Humanity home was built in 2005. As a professional landscaper/gardener she was excited to not only qualify for a Habitat home for her young son and herself, but to have a yard and outdoor space she could call her own. As Darin says, *after creating gardens for myself in numerous rentals - only to leave them sooner or later - I was thrilled to have a yard where I could create a garden that I would never have to leave.*

On a relatively flat city lot she added elevation changes and paths with gentle curves. Beds are arranged so a visitor gets only a small *peak* at the garden at any one time. Once the bones of the garden were established, Darin added perennials for a year-round succession of flowers and color. Among the multitude of flowers, Delphinium and Veronica are featured. Today, as new plants and flowers are added to the garden, Darin first considers structure then color and texture. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned expert, you'll find this garden full of visual inspirations.

### **Garden 7 Denise and Allen Owens**

"We are so excited to welcome Secret Garden Tour visitors to our garden," say Denise and Allen Owens, who live and garden on the outskirts of Port Townsend. "We think you'll find the trip to the edge of town worthwhile."

Established fir and madrone trees were already growing on the 14,000-square-foot property four years ago. Everything else including the house has been added since. Denise has built stepping stone paths that wind through a myriad of greenery and blooms. Allen added a mason bee house, which is a constant buzz of activity with mason and leaf cutter bees. Bulbs, young fruit trees, roses, azaleas, hydrangea, raspberry bushes and more assure that



one plant or another will be “in full glory” and vying for your admiration.

The garden mix and layout have a casual, playful feel punctuated by inviting resting places. Birds frequently splash in the fountain. A swing set, brightly painted chairs and a patio gazebo are waiting; the couple encourages you to rest a minute and enjoy.

For questions about this years tour, contact Jeanne Touger, [jeannetouger@gmail.com](mailto:jeannetouger@gmail.com), or log onto the Jefferson County Master Gardener website, <https://jcmgf.org>

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