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# MUKILTEO BEACON

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Beacon photo by Sara Bruestlee

Wendy Stafford and Gene Pennock hang up "Bright Braids," a quilt by Margo Faccini, for display in the Pennock garden. This quilt and more than 100 others in seven private gardens will be on the Mukilteo Garden & Quilt Tour on Saturday, July 20, and Sunday, July 21. This the first time it is a two day event.

## Garden and quilt tour is 2 day event

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The fusion of gardens and quilts in the biennial Mukilteo Garden & Quilt Tour make it a one-of-a-kind event.

The Mukilteo Way Garden Club and the Mukilteo Lighthouse Quilters Guild will host their fourth tour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 20, and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 21, rain or shine.

The two-day tour features eight gardens in and around Mukilteo and more than 100 handcrafted quilts.

Seven of the gardens are private and one is public. See all of them in one day or over the course of two.

The public garden is the quilt garden at Rosehill Community Center, maintained by the garden club. The community center also serves as the tour headquarters.

All of the quilts on this tour were inspired by and/or complement the gardens in which they are showcased.

"It's a perfect fusion," tour co-chair Jean Skerlong said. "When I make up a garden, I think of the color, texture, theme and design, and quilters do the same thing."

Highlights from the tour include a colorful quilt by Margo Faccini and the Pennock garden, which has been described as "an array of color and texture."

For the quilt "Bright Braids,"

Faccini received a second-place ribbon in the 2010 Busy Bee Quilt Show in Monroe. She started the quilt from a kit as a demonstration during the quilt show. She designed the border herself from leftover scraps.

"I had never made a braid quilt before," Faccini said. "It was very fun, bright and cheerful. It was playtime for me."

The Pennock garden features a mixture of blue-leafed hosta, hellebores, yew, sarcocca, smoke trees and more. A stone pathway overlooks the Big Gulch and its babbling creek.

"A lot of times you might drive by someone's house, but you don't get to see what is behind the fence or in the back-

see **TOUR** page 5 ▶



► from **TOUR** page 1

yard," Skerlong said. "This is the one time that they're sharing their private space.

"It's a fun, relaxed experience. I can't think of a better way to spend a day."

The non-profit Mukilteo Lighthouse Quilters Guild was founded in 2004. The guild's mission is to provide opportunities for members and the community to learn about the craft of quilting.

Members also make comfort quilts for charity, including for KidsDream of Snohomish County and Senior Services of Snohomish County.

The Mukilteo Way Garden Club, also a non-profit, has been promoting gardening and community service since its founding in 1933.

Members also care for the Fowler Pear Tree Park in Mukilteo, identify historic trees for preservation, and support a number of local gardening projects.

Proceeds from tours go back into the community, including donations to Compass Health, the Evergreen Arboretum in Everett, LaConner Quilt & Textile Museum and a Horticulture Scholarship Fund.

Tickets cost \$15 in advance and \$18 the days of the tour. Order tickets online or go to several locations listed on the tour website. Tickets are limited.

The days of the tour, tickets will be available at the tour headquarters, Rosehill Community Center, 304 Lincoln Ave.

"This is the first time we've expanded it to two days," Skerlong said. "When it was only one day, if you missed it, you'd have to wait another two years."

A "fishbowl" raffle will also be held at Rosehill Community Center for a variety of prizes, including gift certificates, birdhouses, a wheelbarrow, a quilt kit and a tabletop fountain. Raffle tickets are \$1 or six for \$5.

"The whole is more than the sum of the parts," said Faccini, who is also co-chair of the tour. "A quilt by itself can be absolutely gorgeous, and a flower by itself is exquisite, and when you put the two together, you make a whole new piece of art.

"The [blending of] nature and the man made is magical."

Skerlong, who is also president of the garden club, said she searches the Internet for 'garden and quilt tour' all the time, and that the only other tour sort of like theirs is in Indiana.

"Other garden tours usually have art or musicians on the tour, but not quilts," she said.

For more information on the tour, go to [www.mukilteogardenandquilttour.org](http://www.mukilteogardenandquilttour.org).