

Fabric and flora

Mukilteo Garden and Quilt Tour returns July 18

By Cathy Herholdt

Whether you're a horticulture or hobby devotee, you'll find the best of both worlds at the Mukilteo Garden and Quilt Tour, which will be held on Saturday, July 18, in 10 diverse gardens around the waterside community.

The Mukilteo Lighthouse Quilters and the Mukilteo Way Garden Club have joined together to present to the public some of the area's best gardens, plus display some exquisite, handmade quilts in picturesque outdoor settings. The first tour, in 2007, was a huge success, bringing visitors from near and far, according to Ginger Seitz, president of the Mukilteo Lighthouse Quilters. The 2009 tour will feature 10 new gardens, so those who attended last time will have an entirely new experience.

Quilter Alice Rhodes joined the guild after attending the 2007 tour. She'd been sewing for a while and had an interest in quilting, but the event served as the inspiration she needed to take up the craft. She is now an active member of the group, maintaining their Web site and helping with publicity for the tour.

There will be 130 quilts on display throughout the gardens — some made by award-winning quilters and local, highly skilled machine quilters, said Rhodes.

Jean Skerlong, vice president of the Mukilteo Way Garden Club, which has been in existence since 1933, said she thinks the idea of combining the two crafts in a tour is perfect. "Quilters and gardeners use many of the same elements: color, texture, form, shape, repetition. They really lend to

each other," she said.

Of the 10 locations on the tour, all are private gardens, with the exception of Mukilteo's new City Hall, which exhibits large evergreen trees, rain gardens designed to thrive on run-off, a green roof and many native plants.

The other nine locations are an eclectic mix of Mukilteo gardens with inspiration and ideas for every kind of gardener. Four of the homes have breathtaking views of the Sound. Others are small space, traditional gardens displaying intensely planted, unique plants. A few are in Old Town



A garden makes the idyllic setting for quilts on the Mukilteo Garden and Quilt Tour.

Mukilteo — one with a seaside theme that includes use of roses that were chosen solely for their beach-themed names.

This year's tour poster art, titled "Northwest Summer," was created by Lynnwood artist Kathleen Moore. Collector's edition posters will be available for sale on the day of the tour and through the Mukilteo Garden and Quilt Tour Web site.

Tickets for the tour are \$12 and are available online at www.mukilteogardenandquilttour.org, and at various locations, including Emery's Garden in Lynnwood, Sky Nursery in Shoreline, Pacific Fabrics in Everett and the Needle and I in Everett.