**Press Release**

**Mukilteo Garden & Quilt Tour**

**February 28, 2011**

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**website: www.mukilteogardenandquilttour.org**

MUKILTEO, WA – The Mukilteo Way Garden Club and Mukilteo Lighthouse Quilters are planning their third biennial Garden & Quilt tour for Saturday, July 16, 2011, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. The tour displays one hundred hand-made quilts in eight beautiful gardens in and around Mukilteo, a scenic waterfront community located 25 miles north of Seattle. The tour is open to the public for an admission fee of $12 for advance-purchase tickets, or $15 if purchased on the day of the tour. Information and tickets will be available on our website, [www.mukilteogardenandquilttour.org](http://www.mukilteogardenandquilttour.org/) after April 1. Tickets will also be sold through various locations around Mukilteo and Everett after June 1.

This year, the Tour showcases two public gardens in addition to six private gardens. Mukilteo Community Garden will be one of these. This community garden is a labor of love created by local gardeners, where organic gardening techniques are taught and produce is raised for local food banks. Additionally, Mukilteo’s brand new Rosehill Community Center, with its expansive water views, will serve as Garden & Quilt Tour headquarters on the day of the tour. The grounds of Rosehill Community Center include a Quilted Garden maintained by the Mukilteo Way Garden Club. Gardens often inspire quilters to make garden-themed quilts, but in this case, the gardeners were inspired to create a garden in the shape of a quilt block.

Good garden design uses elements of color, texture, size, shape and repetition, and quiltersuse the same elements when designing a quilt. Ann Lindquist, member of Mukilteo Lighthouse Quilters guild, is getting ready: “Quilters love to play with color and will coordinate their quilts with the inspiring gardens.    The quilts will be contemporary, traditional, and artistic original designs.  The combination of the art of quilting and gardening is breathtaking, especially on a Northwest summer day,” said Lindquist.

According to Jean Skerlong, President of the Mukilteo Way Garden Club, “This year’s Tour will feature some amazing private residential gardens. They include gardens of both Master Gardeners and self-taught masters. We will have an interesting mix of contemporary and cottage gardens, including a garden by a wild bird habitat enthusiast, and others that are simply enthusiastic about gardening, know their plants and have a remarkable talent for seasonal color displays and respect for habitat.”

 The Mukilteo Lighthouse Quilters guild, a non-profit organization, was established in 2004. The guild's mission is to provide opportunities for members and the community to learn more about the craft of quilting. Members also make comfort quilts for distribution through charitable organizations serving the needs of foster children and seniors, including KidsDream of Snohomish County and Senior Services of Snohomish County. Additional projects provide opportunities for young people to learn to sew, and donations to La Conner Quilt Museum restoration fund.

The Mukilteo Way Garden Club, also a non-profit organization, has a history that promotes gardening and community service since its establishment in 1933.  Current projects range from caring for the Fowler Pear Tree Park in Mukilteo, identification of historic trees for preservation, and support of a number of local gardening and environmental causes.  The Garden Club proceeds from previous Garden & Quilt Tours were used to establish a Horticultural Scholarship Fund.

“Our vibrant waterfront community is a gem on the North Sound, and we would like to give the public the opportunity to experience Mukilteo for a day of sunshine and a unique display of quilts in our beautiful gardens. The Waterfront Arts Festival will be underway at Lighthouse Park that same day, so there will be more than one attraction for visitors to enjoy,” comments Alice Rhodes, Co-Chairman of the Tour.

Mukilteo by the Sea: Come for the Tour and stay for the weekend. Lodging and restaurant information is available at this website: [www.mukilteochamber.org/](http://www.mukilteochamber.org/) For questions about Mukilteo Garden & Quilt Tour, call 425-361-0757 or check our website: www.[mukilteogardenandquilttour.org](http://www.mukilteogardenandquilttour.org).

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