

# Gardens will be livened with quilts

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

The combination of colorful quilts and beautiful gardens will be celebrated this year with the 20th anniversary of the Quilts in the Garden tour presented by the Sisters Garden Club on Thursday, July 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tickets for the self-guided tour are \$15, children under 12 are free. They are available at the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce office, The Gallimaufry, or at any of the gardens on tour day. Five gardens, two homes, and a church will be part of the tour.

An additional stop on the tour is the Sisters Community Garden located at Sisters Eagle Airport at the corner of Camp Polk Road and Barclay Drive. Lunch prepared by Community Garden members will be available for purchase to help fundraising efforts for the garden. Last year they made close to \$1,000 and sold out of lunches quickly.

Visitors will be able to enjoy their lunch sitting among the lushness of their surroundings while viewing beautiful quilts displayed on the surrounding fence.

The garden tour originated in 1997 as an adjunct to the Quilter's Week classes and

activities. Quilt Show founder Jean Wells Kennan suggested the idea of having a garden tour and the first annual Quilt Show Garden Tour was held on the Friday of Quilter's Affair classes. Wells Keenan was made a Lifetime Member of the Garden Club in appreciation of her help and encouragement with the tour. Her own garden has been part of the tour several times.

The tour is the Garden Club's primary fundraising event each year, with 450 tickets sold last year to both quilters and gardeners. They have donated thousands of dollars over the years to local programs that promote garden and nature activities and improve the natural habitat. Each year their Christmas brunch includes collecting and donating new unwrapped toys for the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District gift drive for Sisters children.

Last year's tour netted about \$5,000 and their major donation so far this year has been funds for raised garden beds at the Central Oregon Veteran's Ranch.

A new stop on the tour this year is St. Winefride's Garden at St. Edward the Martyr Catholic Church at 123 Trinity Way. The parish uses

the garden, which is visible to worshippers through a glass wall in the sanctuary, as a place of quiet meditation and occasional meetings. Within the garden is an Urn Garden, where loved ones may be laid to rest.

Sisters wood carver Chester "Skip" Armstrong carved the 37 statues supporting the roof, representing the patron saints of each of the parishes in the Diocese of Baker. A number of other local artists were involved in designing and crafting various garden features. The garden was dedicated in 2001 "to the victims of terrorism throughout the world and to those who labor for peace and justice."

The other gardens/homes on the tour are located in Tollgate; off Highway 126 just east of town; and off Barclay Drive above the airport. Tour coordinator, Jane Kempvance, described a home in Tollgate, where visitors will be able to view a gardening practice using bales of straw, with a book by the owner explaining the process, available for purchase.



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Quilts will hang in gardens across Sisters Country for a special tour.

According to Garden Club President Larry Nelson, another property containing acreage will showcase the use of natural materials for ease of maintenance in our deer-laden, quixotic climate.

Homes were added to the tour starting in 2000. From that year forward, generous donations of the proceeds have been made toward student greenhouses and gardening programs at the schools, as well as toward Barclay Memorial Park, the Deschutes Land Trust, Sisters Rotary for planting materials, the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council for work with Sisters students, the Sisters Community Garden, and the Seed-to-Table program.

In its 29-year history, the Sisters Garden Club has made invaluable contributions to the city through their labors, their knowledge, and their generous financial support – all of which have helped beautify our town while enhancing our natural surroundings and educating our children about the importance of the natural world.

The club meets the second Saturday of most months at 9:30 a.m. at City Hall for educational presentations, demonstrations, and panels. Their meeting schedule and other information can be viewed on their website, [www.sistersgardenclub.com](http://www.sistersgardenclub.com). Visitors and new members are welcome at the meetings.

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