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The Spring Planting Guide 2007

Oregon Plant Fair

World's shortest horticultural road trip set for May 12

BY RACHEL MILLER

Rooooad trip! Gardening road trip! This year you've determined to add the latest and greatest plants to your yard, and how better than by visiting Oregon's innovative specialty nurseries? Imagine you and your best hort-head buddy, touring the state on a quest for extraordinary plants. Swing by Cottage Grove to sample fabulous new varieties from Log House Plants and fantastic lavenders at Champion Acres. Venture up the McKenzie River to-

Alice Doyle, co-owner of Log House Plants and another Avid Gardener. So bring together some passionate gardeners, invite their specialty nursery friends – Maurice Horn of Joy Creek Nursery in Scappoose, Fred Weisensee and Leonard Foltz from Dancing Oaks in Monmouth, and Jim Gilbert from One Green World in Molalla, to name a few — and you've got a dream road trip come true for plant fanatics and novices alike. "It's the ultimate in one-stop discovery for rare, traditional, and specialty plants," says Doyle.

The garden party will include community resource demonstrations, an "Ask the Experts" pavilion staffed by experienced growers and master gardeners and offerings from the gardens of Willamette District Garden Clubs members. The plant people also have invited their artist friends, who will show custom metalwork, mosaics, sculpture, pottery, furniture, wood crafts and glass creations for gardens large and small. All this will take place against the grassy green backdrop of Alton Baker Park, with food and live music to fuel the festive atmosphere.

In keeping with this year's theme, "The World is Your Garden," plants or artwork purchased for your backyard will help cultivate an important natural corridor for the local environment: A portion of proceeds will benefit the Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah Arboretum.

It's an exciting opportunity for area green-thumbs, says freelance garden writer Mary-Kate Mackey, another avid gardener. "Our state has an incredible diversity of small independent nurseries," she says. "We're third in the country for wholesale plant sales. Independent nurseries are Oregon's gardening gold."

Doyle adds, "It's a party – mark your calendars!"

For more information about the May 12 event, email info@loghouseplants.com or call 942-2288.

'Independent nurseries are Oregon's gardening gold.' — Mary-Kate Mackey

ward Waltherville and discover a trove of green treasures at Bloom River Gardens. Loop back over to Northwest Garden Nursery near Fern Ridge for the hottest in hellebores, then head to the coast to collect native azaleas from Thompson's Nursery at Waldport. Roam north to Sauvie Island for zone-defying wonders from Cistus, or roll down south to Talent and check out the rock garden selection at Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery. Pack your bags; it could be a long trip!

Or not.

What if all those nurseries came to you? One short drive to Alton Baker Park — one glorious day of plant perusal. That's the idea behind the Oregon Plant Fair 2007, a one-day garden festival and sale May 12 presented by the Avid Gardeners and the Willamette District Garden Clubs. Sandra Rossi, vice president of the Avid Gardeners, explains it quite simply: "We like plants. We want to see plants. We want to buy plants."

"We're suckers for cool plants," adds

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