

GARDEN TOURS

Find inspiration for your own garden at the Music in the Gardens Tour on the Long Beach Peninsula July 18 and the Seaside Downtown Garden Walk July 26

N

orthwest gardens are looking their best now, which means it's time for garden tours.

This year there are two excellent and very different tours on successive weekends. The first, Saturday, July 18, is the Music in the Gardens Tour on the Long Beach Peninsula. Next Sunday,

July 26, you can tour the urban gardens of Seaside. On both tours you can enjoy creative and refreshing gardens and, if you're a gardener, ask questions and collect information. That is, get ideas for your own garden.

Quality and diversity are the bywords on the Long Beach tour. Since 2006 this tour has been showing gardens creatively adapted to local conditions, which include everything from wind and rain to elk and bears. Eight gardens will display everything from roses to cabbages, and — a first for any local tour — a home wetlands restoration project.

While strolling the grounds at these venues you can munch goodies and listen to music as diverse as the gardens. Long beach musicians will contribute, of course, and Acustica World Music from across the river will also play, as will the folk duo Winterlings and guitarist Terry Robb, both from Portland.

The garden of Rita Nicely and Ken Golling is a series of outdoor "rooms" (including the new "Buddha Garden") surrounding a lodge-like home. There's a meditation alcove, a small pond that feeds a stream that empties into a frog pond, and a variety of meticulously tended native plants and perennials. Berries are picked early to avoid attracting bears. "We worked with nature," says Nicely, "and on nice days we can sit on the porch with our wine, watching the sunset, and on the other side of the house we can watch the sunrise over Willapa Bay."

Two gardens are side-by-side. That of Ginger Bisch is a more traditional garden, befitting the B&B it surrounds. Next door, Marla McGrew says that she and husband Gary, "recycle or repurpose whatever we can." You'll find whimsical pots and trellises made from old wooden ladders, and both gardens have the latest garden craze: chickens.

Elsewhere on the tour you'll see a classic

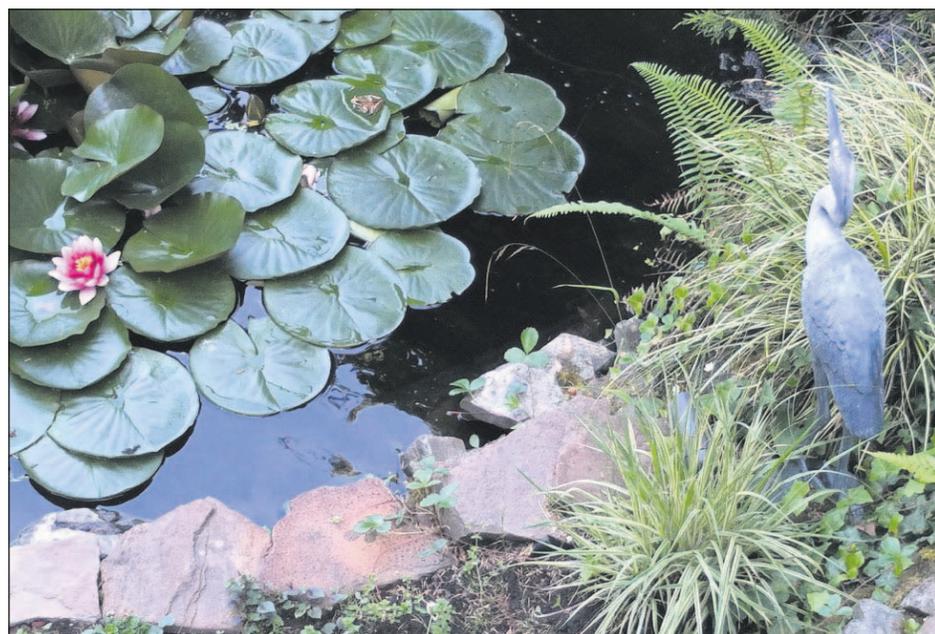


The garden of Rita Nicely and Ken Golling features meticulously tended native plants and perennials. The couple's garden will be one of eight on the Music in the Garden tour on the Long Beach Peninsula.

cut flower garden, a bird watcher's paradise, and an "aromatherapy deck" with jasmine, gardenias and pinks, covered with multi-layered sails that dance in the wind. The "High Tide Hilton" isn't an hotel, but it's a garden filled with fun regional art, driftwood gates, and what is perhaps the best outdoor kitchen on the peninsula.

Perhaps the most unique stop on the tour is the "Isle of Bev" restoration project. Owners Kelly Rupp and Bev Arnoldy (hence the name) have worked to restore this former Willapa Bay cannery site to its original state, including planting hundreds of native plants and dredging a pond.

About an hour south of Long Beach, the city of Seaside welcomes visitors with its urban gardens. There are over 100 of these small gardens in the downtown core (bounded by Avenue A, U.S. Highway 101, First Avenue, and the Prom), and the city also provides 66 hanging baskets. Many of these small gardens are included on the Downtown Garden Walk, which is sponsored by the



The peninsula garden of Rita Nicely and Ken Golling features a frog pond.

Music in the Gardens:

The tour is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 18. Tickets cost \$20 and may be purchased at The English Nursery (corner of highways 101 and 103 in Seaview) or at Peninsula Landscape Supply (15289 Sandridge Road, Long Beach). More information at <http://watermusicfestival.com/music-in-the-gardens-tour>

Seaside Downtown Garden Walk:

This walk takes place at 9 a.m. Sunday, July 26. Free, or \$8 with the breakfast and talk. No reservations are needed for the walk, but are necessary for the breakfast: call 503-717-1914.

Continued on page 15

the arts

VISUAL ARTS • LITERATURE • THEATER • MUSIC & MORE

Story and photos by DWIGHT CASWELL