

# Garden

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Seaside Downtown Development Association.

The two-hour stroll begins at Beach Books, at the intersection of Broadway and Holladay Drive, at 9 a.m. — or 8 a.m. if you want to enjoy a catered breakfast and a slide show talk. The gardener responsible for the design and upkeep of these gardens for the past 20 years is Pam Fleming, of Nature's Helper Landscaping, and she will be your tour guide.

She'll take you along Broad-

way, past the classic buildings of the Gilbert Block, and when you come to the Necanicum River, she will gesture to the scene. "Take in the view," she says. "The gardens connect to the old buildings, the trees, the river and our beautiful old Broadway Bridge. There's a whole landscape. You can imagine you're in some European city."

Begin to look carefully and you will see an amazing variety of plants, all of which Fleming can describe in detail. She can also tell you how she has coped with wind and salt air, how colors and textures contribute to garden design, and how she has chosen plant groupings that look

good year-round.

Notice also how Fleming has designed the gardens so their colors complement those of the nearby shops, how herbs are featured in gardens in front of restaurants, and her little joke: in front of the bars there are thyme, nicotiana, and love-in-a-mist.

The Downtown Garden Walk may be less comprehensive than Music in the Gardens, but no less informative. The two tours complement each other because they are both about the problem every gardener faces: how to create something of beauty out of the space and materials available. And if you steal an idea or two, who could blame you?



Photos by Dwight Caswell

Pam Fleming, of Nature's Helper Landscaping, designed and has worked on the downtown Seaside urban gardens for the past 20 years. She will lead the SDDA Seaside Downtown Garden Walk July 26.



Marla and Gary McGrew use whimsical pots and trellises made from old wooden ladders in their peninsula garden.



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