

Rhythms of the land

Music in the Gardens 2018 held July 21 on the Long Beach Peninsula

By MARILYN GILBAUGH
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Take a tour of six beautiful private landscapes at Music in the Gardens 2018 — aka the Long Beach Peninsula Garden Tour — taking place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 21.

A fundraiser for the Water Music Society, it's a chance for garden and gardening lovers to see what's doable when there is passion behind nature's processes.

Experienced gardeners can talk shop about soil temperatures and newly discovered plantings, while the uninitiated can simply ogle and enjoy the day.

Live music and small bites at each of the gardens offer a good way to explore what's happening on the Long Beach Peninsula, no matter one's gardening expertise.

Co-chairs Nancy Allen and Darlene Houser often spend a good year searching for the next year's gardens that will "make the cut."

"We are known to drive around streets, neighborhoods and off track all year long in search of that just-right property," Allen said. "Sometimes something catches our eye and we leave a card. And gardeners, they often become our great good-source friends."

"Each year we think 'it can't get any better than this,'" Houser said. "And then it just does."

Garden round-up

The garden locations are kept under wraps until the day-of to respect the privacy of participating owners. But tour-goers can look forward to:

- Tidy garden beds and mature trees surrounding a 1913 Craftsman home. A comfortable and art-filled bed-and-breakfast offers a look around the grounds and a rare opportunity to explore the home's interior. Docents will be on hand to answer questions about the extensive original art and the art of inn-keeping.

- East Coast meets West Coast at a guest cottage. An unexpected jewel, its garden begins at the end of a winding lane. Look carefully: The meandering driveway



COURTESY WATER MUSIC FESTIVAL

IF YOU GO

MUSIC IN THE GARDENS 2018

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 21

Where: Private gardens on the Long Beach Peninsula

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at watermusicfestival.com or at the following three locations the day of the tour:

- Basket Case Greenhouse, 12106 Sandridge Road, Long Beach
- The English Nursery, corner of U.S. Highway 101 and Washington State Highway 103, Seaview
- Bay Avenue Gallery, 1406 Bay Ave., Ocean Park

Tickets purchased online must be presented at one of the above-noted locations to receive the Garden Tour map, which is your ticket.

Proceeds from this event assist in the Water Music Society's mission to bring great music to the Peninsula throughout the year. A portion of the profits are donated to the Ocean Beach Schools' music programs.

Children under 18 get in free on the tour. (No animals are allowed.)

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A drone photo of a garden on display.