



Photos by LisaAnne Kawachi

'Country Garden Tour' June 27 in Upper Valley

The Central Gorge Master Gardener Association presents the 2015 Country Gardens Tour on June 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Waucoma Bookstore, Grow Organic, Good News Gardening, and the Hood River Extension Office in Hood River, Klindt's Booksellers in The Dalles, and Dickey's in Bingen. The following gardens will be on the tour:

■ **Meadow Mountain Farm and Garden: 6270 Miller Rd., Parkdale**

Tacy and Ken Lee's farm and garden started as a family gift of the property in 1996. The original plan was to create a flower garden in memory of Ken's mother. Add to this fourteen dump truck loads of acquired boulders and two family weddings and you have what is now Meadow Mountain Farm and Garden. Tacy's design ideas have led to the creation of a lovely Koi pond, a dramatic two-sided waterfall and a much larger than life boulder edged dragonfly planted in annuals and perennials. This garden will feature refreshments and a pond building demonstration.

■ **The Schneider Garden: 6500 Allen Rd., Parkdale**

The Schneiders have a real horticultural production on their property. Audrey and Steve have plenty of variety from water-wise to bog gardening, vegetable growing to container gardening and a small ornamental grass nursery plot as well. The gardens have evolved from year to year under Steve and Audrey's do-it-yourself stewardship and every year Steve designs a new area for Audrey to put in a new garden bed. There is always something new and exciting to look forward to and enjoy at the Schneider garden.

■ **Miller Farm Retreat: 6991 Allen Rd., Parkdale**

Set within Bobbi and Steve Miller's 100 year old, 40 acre working family farm are four acres of guest houses, courtyards, woods and gardens. Walking trails meander from one garden to the next. Look for a waterfall and Koi pond in one garden and little hobbit houses and a fairy fountain in another. Spring flowers include azaleas, rhododendrons, flowering dogwoods, daffodils and tulips. When the spring blooms fade other perennials are there to be enjoyed as well. All of this comes with a backdrop of majestic Mt. Hood and beautiful orchards.

■ **The Russell Garden: 4112 Cunningham Dr., Mt. Hood**

Jude and David Russell have created a wonderful wildflower meadow at their home in Mt. Hood. Jude, an artist, designed her entry garden with many native plants, hummingbird and butterfly friendly perennials and shrubs, all of which have minimal watering requirements. The back gardens are planted with lilacs, peonies, roses, daphne, hostas, numerous climbing vines and an all organic vegetable garden. This is definitely a garden that is a treat for all the senses!

■ **Parkdale Bicentennial Memorial Garden: Corner of the Dee Hwy and Baseline Rd.**

The Parkdale Memorial Garden was started in the 1960s and was dedicated in 1976. It was initially planted on ODOT land by the Parkdale Garden Club. It was maintained for many years by the Parkdale Garden Club as well as by family members and members of the Parkdale community.



Submitted photos

PARKDALE Bicentennial Garden, above, and the Schneiders' "hot tub garden" are highlights of Saturday's upper valley tour.

Mercado de Valle returned for its second season on Saturday. Eric De La Torre, 11 and his brother Brian, 4 sample a healthy spinach-and-fruit "Popeye Power Smoothie" made by Anna Osborn from the Nutrition Education Department of the Oregon State University Extension Office. Inset: Hannah Olivia Hamilton, 5, looks after Lil' Dude, a two week old Kune Kune piglet, while she enjoys the sunny weather. Mercado del Valle will be held every Saturday from 3-6 p.m. at Mid Valley Elementary, with the exception of Hood River County Fair weekend when they will be closed. For more information about Mercado de Valle or to sign up to be a vendor at the market, contact Hannah Ladwig at 414-828-3760 or hannah@gorgegrown.com.

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