For Immediate Release

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Heronswood[®] Garden Announces Details for First-Ever Hydrangea Festival

August 12 event will feature garden tours, flowering arranging demos, themed treats, fun for families, and more!

Heronswood[®] Garden has announced details for its first-ever <u>Hydrangea Festival</u> on Saturday, August 12 from 10 am to 2 pm. Owned and operated by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Heronswood is located at 7530 NE 288th St. in Kingston on the Kitsap Peninsula.

Heronswood's Hydrangea Festival will celebrate the beloved plant, which has found a home in gardens across the Pacific Northwest. Known for their distinctive and delicate flowers—often in shades of white, pink, or blue—Hydrangeas encompass more than 70 species of plants native to Asia and the Americas. Heronswood's rich diversity of plants includes several varieties of Hydrangea, which should be in full bloom throughout the garden for the start of the festival.

During the Hydrangea Festival, at 11 am and 1 pm, Garden Director Dr. Ross Bayton will take visitors on a tour of the Garden's prized Hydrangea collection, which includes gigantic climbing hydrangeas (and the trees they've swallowed!), various mophead and lacecap flowers (to help visitors choose varieties for their own gardens, and several curious herbaceous hydrangea relations, which are perfect for small spaces where there isn't room to grow the real thing.

At noon, in the events tent at the back of the Garden, there will be a florist demonstration focusing on Hydrangeas, including how to use for maximum effect in floral arrangements and the best time to harvest flowers for longevity.

Throughout the event, visitors will be able to self-tour the Garden at the height of its summer bloom and drop in to the Garden House to experience the beauty of Hydrangeas in professional floral displays. Also, get a sneak peek at what's coming soon to the Garden at Heronswood's new variety showcase.

For the gardener who would like to take home a keepsake, <u>Hydrangeas Plus</u> will be making the trip from the Willamette Valley in Oregon to sell some of their most sought-after varieties. The nursery is well-known for having one of the most extensive catalogs of Hydrangeas for purchase in North America. They will be joined in the plant market by <u>Windcliff Plants</u>, the home nursery of Heronwood's founder, Dan Hinkley.

The Hydrangea Festival will also include a scavenger hunt for kids and families, a photo booth, and themed food items, including sweet treats and cocktails.

Tickets for the Hydrangea Festival are \$10 for adults, \$5 for visitors aged 7-17, and free for kids aged 6 and under. Garden and PGST members are always free.

Heronswood's Hydrangea Festival is sponsored by Kitsap Bank.

Long known for its semiannual Plant Sales, Heronswood as has recently introduced new, more diverse events, like the Hydrangea Festival and July's Heronswoof, which welcomed dogs for a "paws-itively" perfect (and canine-focused) day in the Garden.

Last year, for the first time since 2019, Heronswood was able to bring back the ghosts and goblins of Haunted Heronswood, a popular spooky season event since 2016. This year, Haunted Heronswood will be held on October 21 & 22.

ABOUT HERONSWOOD GARDEN

Founded in 1987, Heronswood Garden comprises 15 acres in Western Washington's Kitsap County. Heronswood protects a vast array of plants from around the world, with over 8,000 different varieties spread across six distinct yet integrated gardens. Heronswood seeks to inspire with its plant collections and charismatic landscapes, to educate on the connections between plants and people, to encourage the protection of plants and their natural habitats, and foster appreciation for the great diversity of plants and the people who care for them.

Purchased by the <u>Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe</u> in 2012, Heronswood now serves as a showcase for tribal culture and operates under the auspices of the <u>Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation</u>, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

More information can be found at <u>https://heronswoodgarden.org</u>.

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