



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2013

### **Bloedel Reserve Celebrates 25 Years as Public Garden Looks Ahead to Next 25 Years with New Master Plan**

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA (June 10, 2013) – Today Bloedel Reserve announced plans to celebrate its 25 years as a public garden, while looking forward to the next 25 years. The Reserve's Board of Trustees has approved a draft Master Plan to accommodate projected growth and enhance the guest experience. A copy of the draft Master Plan will be on-hand at various events for public viewing and feedback. To celebrate this milestone anniversary, plenty of activities are planned including the annual Garden Party, a summer benefit concert, community picnic, sculpture exhibition, Founder's Weekend, Spooky Creatures Walk (in collaboration with West Sound Wildlife Shelter) and the return of the highly popular Holiday Village.

"This important milestone presents a wonderful opportunity for us at Bloedel Reserve to look back and acknowledge the vision, passion, and hard work that built and sustained our organization for so many years," said Bloedel Reserve Executive Director Ed Moydell. "It also allows us to look ahead and envision our next phase as a community resource and institution and what it will take for us to accommodate increased public demand."

The draft Master Plan, created by Bainbridge Island resident and award-winning architect Johnpaul Jones of Jones & Jones Architects and Landscape Architects, focuses on enhancing the guest experience by opening 30-acres of new trails leading through some of the Reserve's oldest forests and most inspirational landscapes, opening the second floor of the Bloedel's original estate to the public, creating a new educational and event space out of the already existing Sheep Sheds, and rethinking the Reserve's entrance so that it is safer, more welcoming, and can meet increasing public demand.

The draft Master Plan will be shared with key constituents and community members over the coming months and will be on-hand for viewing and feedback at the Reserve's 25th Anniversary events and at its booth at Bainbridge Island's Grand Old Fourth celebration. Once the feedback is collected and budgets are considered, the Board of Trustees will work on the final Master Plan, slated for approval by the end of 2013. Projects within the final Master Plan will then be prioritized. Questions regarding the draft Master Plan should be directed to Mr. Moydell at [masterplan@bloedelreserve.org](mailto:masterplan@bloedelreserve.org).

While the Reserve looks ahead, it is also taking time now to celebrate its long tradition of creating intimate and transformative experiences in nature. A series of events are planned to ring in the 25th Anniversary:

- August 1, 2013. 4:30-7:30 p.m. - 6th Annual Garden Party.

Always a summer highlight, the Garden Party is the signature fundraising event for the Reserve. The evening includes hors d'oeuvres from fine local restaurants, and wine and ale from area purveyors.

- **August 9, 2013. 7:00-8:30 p.m. - Anniversary Concert with Rose & the Nightingale**  
Spend an evening under the setting sun while listening to Rose & the Nightingale. The masterful musicians play violin, cello, piano and trumpet, and sing in three-part harmonies. Lyrics from their "Spirit of the Garden" album were written by poets and commemorate the bond between nature and the human spirit.
- **August 24, 2013. 7:00-9:30 p.m. - Community Picnic**  
Patrons will be invited for an evening picnic on the back lawn and meadow. Imagine an informal party in the Hamptons: wine, beer, croquet, bocce ball, games for the kids and music lilting across the bluff as people spread out their blankets and enjoy an evening at the Reserve unlike any other.
- **August 29-October 13, 2013 - "An Experience: Sculpture in the Landscape" featuring work by Julie Speidel**  
For this six-week installation, renowned sculpture artist Julie Speidel created 12 unique pieces to highlight specific areas of the gardens. Speidel created art to blend harmoniously with the Reserve's natural beauty and to draw the eye towards often overlooked areas of the grounds. She drew inspiration from the glacial erratic rocks found throughout the region.
- **October 19 & 20, 2013 - Founder's Weekend**  
Designed for the Bloedel Reserve fanatic, this weekend will be chock-full of fascinating information about the past and future of the Reserve and will include lectures by Bloedel superstars from the past and present, as well as plenty of talk about the future.
- **October 26, 2013, 4:30-7:30 p.m. - Spooky Creatures Walk *in collaboration with West Sound Wildlife Shelter***  
They're strange. They're weird. They're fascinating. They're just some of the animals and birds rescued by our neighbors at the West Sound Wildlife Shelter that will be on our grounds on the evening of October 27th. Watch and learn as naturalists display and talk about owls, hawks, crows and other oddly entertaining creatures. They'll be stationed all over the Reserve and ready to share their personalities and quirks with visitors of all ages.
- **December 8, 2013-January 4, 2014 - 4th Annual Holiday Village**  
A holiday tradition for the whole family. Parents and grandparents will delight in a winter visit to the Reserve and the beautiful Christmas tree display while kids will love the miniature village and model trains. Now in its fourth year, 2013 will bring more smiles to families from throughout the region!

Additionally, Bloedel Reserve will be unveiling a new historical exhibit this summer that will include stories and photos from the Reserve's past and will look back what it took to create what *The New York Times* called "one of this country's most original and ambitious gardens."

To capture the public's memories of time spent in the gardens during the past 25 years, the Reserve is soliciting stories. Patrons with stories to share can submit them to: [stories@bloedelreserve.org](mailto:stories@bloedelreserve.org). Collected stories will be used for upcoming exhibits and other publications.

For more information about the 25th Anniversary events and historical exhibit, contact Korum Bischoff, Director of Communications & Events, at [kbischoff@bloedelreserve.org](mailto:kbischoff@bloedelreserve.org) or (206) 842-7631.

### **About Bloedel Reserve:**

A not for profit organization, the Bloedel Reserve is an internationally renowned public garden and forest preserve whose primary mission is to provide a tranquil and refreshing experience of nature. Located on Bainbridge Island, Washington, the Reserve's 150 acres are a unique blend of natural

woodlands and beautifully landscaped gardens, including a Japanese Garden, a Moss Garden, and Reflection Pool, and the Bloedel's former French Country Chateau-style estate. "More than any other public garden, the Bloedel Reserve is keenly aware of its sense of place, it is the essence of the Pacific Northwest," said executive director Ed Moydell. The Bloedel Reserve is open to the public year-round Tuesdays-Sundays.

**Draft Master Plan Contact:**

Ed Moydell  
Executive Director  
(206) 842-7631 x13  
[masterplan@bloedelreserve.org](mailto:masterplan@bloedelreserve.org)

**Events Contact:**

Korum Bischoff  
Director of Communications & Events  
(206) 842-7631 x16  
[kbischoff@bloedelreserve.org](mailto:kbischoff@bloedelreserve.org)

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