

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Master Gardener Program

The Maricopa County Master Gardener Program and Squaw Peak Elementary School would like to extend an invitation to attend the Sixth Annual Real Gardens for Real People Tour. It is this Saturday, March 24 from 9-4p.m. It is a self-guided car tour including five home gardens and featuring Squaw Peak Elementary School.

The students of Squaw Peak Elementary School have been working hard for the past six months on revitalizing their garden and artwork. Students from past years were also pivotal in this project and deserve to see how their projects have evolved.

The focal point is the delightful Mosaic Garden featuring a mosaic bench and wall mosaic designed entirely by students. The hanging mosaics, featuring Arizona plants, were designed and created over the years by third graders, and have finally been mounted especially for this tour. This area was further enhanced by an Eagle Scout Project in 2005. It also features butterfly-attracting bushes and vines that were planted by second graders for a science unit on butterfly hatching.

The "Secret Garden" hides behind the back wall, painted by second graders, with the colorings of actual butterflies. This space features a wisteria vine in full bloom. Bird feeders and wind chimes, made from recycled materials, hang from a gnarled and ancient tree and two small birdseed gardens provide food for hungry inhabitants. These gardens are edged with recycled and painted terra cotta pipes that provide holding cups for bird food, nesting material, and insects.

An "Herb Garden" has been happily growing in several low planters for the past three years. It was designed by the seventh grade science teacher and her classes. This tour is a wonderful opportunity to see what the children have done in the past years and has been taken to a new level with new excitement and interest.

Tickets are \$20 each and are free to children 12 and under. They can be purchased the day of the event at Squaw Peak Elementary School, 4601 N. 34th Street, Phoenix. Tickets can also be purchased at Baker's, Berridge and Harper's Nurseries.