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Doug Pieren - Seldovia's "Master Gardener"

by Tamara Blodgett



Dedicated and hardworking gardener beautifies our gem...

Long time Seldovia resident since 1972, Doug Pieren has chosen gardening as his second career. "Retired" since age 62, Doug worked at the cannery until it's closing in the late 80's. He was one of the pioneers during the City's grant project to beautify Seldovia. This beautification helped to solidify the rustic "beachy" look that is a trademark look here. His design prowess is not lost on tourists or locals. There is demand for his unique look that so exemplifies our casual coastal environment.

Quirky and cultivated...

Mr. Pieren has worked hard on several projects along Main Street in the town proper. His most recent endeavor was the complete re-working of the exterior grounds for the Alaska Tribal Cache Building. This new structure, not yet 4 years old, was in need of his expert touch which was achieved through his design in addition to the help of local high school and college kids hired to help in its installation. Boulders and "one-man" rock were placed to surround the flowerbeds with unique driftwood border pieces that have attached rope that helps underscore the nautical theme of this area.

Maintenance work is key...

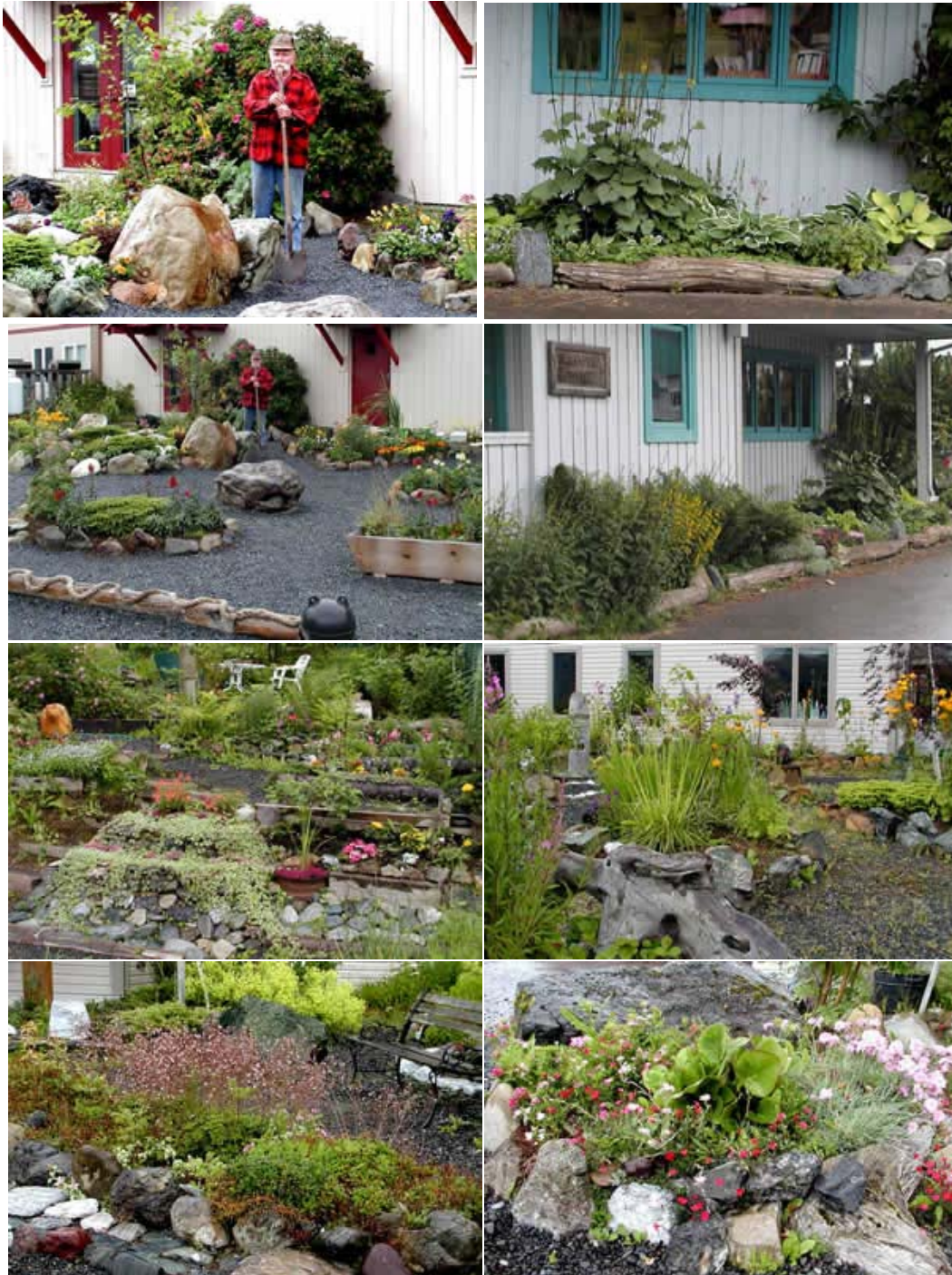
Directly across the street located at the Harbormaster Building, Pieren put his stamp there, with a fun mix of annuals and perennials that greet tourists and boat lovers' alike as they disembark from the harbor. His work is done on a strictly volunteer basis, simply for the love of making this particular portal into Seldovia a welcoming one.

He is currently finishing up a partnership with local Cheryl Reynolds, to achieve just the desired look outside the Seldovia Medical Clinic. This building is part of our much-used library and multipurpose room. Their combined efforts have made this corner an attractive one. Lastly, he finished work early in the season on a private residence. Personal residences are difficult to accomplish with his scheduling priority being his commercial work.

Keeping Seldovia beautiful...

Charmed when there is good weather, Doug looked on the bright side when meeting for the interview in drizzling conditions, "We better get a lot of rain!" he commented. With that said, he couldn't be more faithful if he was a postman; neither rain nor sleet nor snow will keep this gardening guru down!

In addition to the latest project at the ATC, Pieren continues to maintain the other projects that he's installed in the past. Some past projects include a comprehensive landscape enterprise, which completely surrounds the new Seldovia Village Tribe Building. This unique project was executed with old farm implements and log rounds used as part of the overall look.





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