



SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION CHAPTER HOSTS ANNUAL PLANT SALE MAY 7&8 in MULTNOMAH VILLAGE

14th Annual Plant Sale Benefits Oregon Group for People with Scleroderma, a Chronic Connective Tissue Disease

Mustang Wranglers of Oregon Car Club On Site May 7 !

(Portland, April 18, 2011) – The Oregon Chapter of the National Scleroderma Foundation hosts its 14th Annual Weekend Plant Sale 10a.m.–5p.m. on Saturday, May 7 and 10am-3pm on Sunday, May 8 in the parking lot of Keith's Auto Service Center, 3530 SW Multnomah Boulevard (at SW 35th Avenue), in Multnomah Village.

The annual plant sale will include Mother's Day hanging baskets, lots of veggies, annuals and perennials. Bring your own container and we'll help you fill it!

“The Plant Sale is always a great fund-raiser, and our selection this year is better than ever,” Chapter President Liz Orem-Bedel said. “We always have the event around Mother's Day because Scleroderma primarily affects women. It's a way for us to honor these incredible women.”

Adding even more color and sass to this year's event will be the incredible vehicles on display Saturday afternoon, May 7, courtesy of the Mustang Wranglers of Oregon. It's the second straight year that club members are donating their time and efforts to help catch the eyes of passersby and give the plant sale buyers a little extra reason to show up.



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Scleroderma [pronounced sclare-a-derma], or systemic sclerosis, is a chronic connective tissue disease generally classified as one of the autoimmune rheumatic diseases. The term comes from two Greek words: “sclero” meaning hard, and “derma” meaning skin.

Symptoms can range from extreme sensitivity to heat and cold to hardened skin to diminished lung capacity and disfigured face and limbs. Scleroderma can be fatal, and there is no known cause or cure. An estimated 300,000 people have scleroderma, of which 80,000 to 100,000 people in the US have the systemic form of the disease. Scleroderma affects four times as many women as men, usually between the ages 46 to 65.

Now in its fourteenth straight year in the same spot, a big part of the chapter's longest running fundraiser's success has been its location and site benefactor in Keith's Auto Service Center at SW 35th and Multnomah Boulevard in the busy heart of Portland's Multnomah Village. “We've always been at Keith's Auto. He has been extremely generous to the chapter, letting us use his parking lot in a place that's seen by a lot of traffic. We couldn't do it without him,” Orem-Bedel said.

“It's about awareness as much as fundraising,” the chapter president and avid gardener added. “We always give out lots of information. In this regard, I think we've succeeded. People always ask, ‘What is scleroderma?’ The plant sale has always been an opportunity to talk about our little-known disease.”

(photos by Janine Wong)

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For more information, visit www.scleroderma.org/chapter/oregon/ or contact the Scleroderma Foundation Chapter at 503-245-4588, SDForegon@comcast.net, PO Box 19296, Portland, OR 97280. The Scleroderma Foundation is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization serving the interests of persons living with scleroderma. The Foundation's chapters and support groups nationwide help to carry out its three-fold mission of support, education, and research. The Scleroderma Foundation is the leading nonprofit supporter of scleroderma research—funding over \$1M of new grants each year to find the cause and cure of scleroderma.