

You still have four more days to catch the Northwest Flower and Garden Show at the Convention Center in Seattle. A visit to the show will make you feel like spring is right around the corner. Another sign of spring's approach is daffodils. It always makes me a bit sad to cut my daffodils from the garden to enjoy them indoors. So I usually leave my garden daffodils alone and purchase bouquets of daffs for inside the house. Here's a way you can leave your daffodils flowering in your garden. It's the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days 2001.

Daffodils are a harbinger of spring. The daffodil is also the American Cancer Society's symbol of HOPE. Each year our local community members raise thousands of dollars to help the American Cancer Society continue to provide patient services, cancer education and advocacy in our area, and nationwide scientific research. The goal for Daffodil Days 2001 is to raise over \$60,000 in Kitsap, Pierce and Thurston Counties. Last year South Puget Sound raised \$52,000 from the sale of daffodils.

Daffodil Representatives will be selling bouquets of daffodils to co-workers, businesses, clubs, schools, friends and family members. Daffodil sales this year run from February 1 through February 26. The pre-purchased daffodils will be delivered by volunteers on March 12 and 13. The daffodils are grown in the Puyallup Valley, so in addition to purchasing a gift of hope and life for cancer survivors you will be helping support a worthwhile industry in our own state.

There are several ways to purchase the daffodils. All bouquets include ten daffodils. A bouquet with clear cobalt-blue vase is ten dollars. Bouquets without vases are five dollars. The "Gift of Hope" is a vase and bouquet delivered anonymously to a cancer patient at a pre-designated hospital, hospice or nursing home. Businesses can purchase half and full cases of daffodil bouquets without vases ranging from \$125 for 25 bouquets through \$1000 for 200 bouquets. A portion of every donation is tax deductible.

As a cancer survivor I hope you'll purchase one of these sunshiny bouquets of hope. When I was diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago one of the first calls I made was to the American Cancer Society. In four days I received free information in the mail to help in making decisions and learning about chemotherapy and radiation. We cancer survivors are still alive and well because of research funded by the American Cancer Society.

I'll be selling the bouquets so if you can't find a Daffodil Representative email me or call Liberty Bay Books at 779-5909 in Poulsbo and I'll take your order for daffodil bouquets. You can also call a Daffodil Days staff member at 253-272-5767 or 1-800-729-3880. If you'd like to volunteer to help with Daffodil Days in Kitsap County give Sue Shauer a call at 373-2859 (3 to 5 p.m. weekdays) or 405-0454 (evenings).

If you or a loved one need information after a cancer diagnosis call 1-800-ACS-2345 or log on to www.cancer.org for up to date information on all types of cancer and treatment options. There is also an online/phone network for cancer survivors, caregivers, family and friends of cancer patients at 1-877-333-4673 (HOPE) and www.acscsn.org.

Two local support groups meet at the Oncology Center at Harrison Hospital on Cherry Avenue. Support Each Other is a support group for cancer patients and their families. It is facilitated by Harrison Hospital Chaplain Belcher and meets the first and third Thursdays of every month at 7 p.m. The Breast Cancer Support Group meets at the same facility on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. and is facilitated by Kay Buitenveld, Director of Oncology Services at the Hospital. Call 360-792-6885 with any questions.

Magazine Pick - I just discovered "Garden Gate" magazine. The unique thing about this magazine is that it contains no advertising. What a concept! Every page contains timely, helpful tips and projects with very user-

friendly illustrations/photos and instructions. Only two pages had information about gardening products, listing prices and ordering information. (Do you think that could be construed as an ad? Hmmm, maybe.) Forty-three pages for \$4.99 explains how August Home Publishing Company can bring their magazine to us. There is also a web site www.GardenGateMagazine.com. Check this magazine out and see if it meets your needs. I give it a green thumbs up.

You can email comments to Peg at gardenmentor@yahoo.com or in care of this newspaper.