

Today's column is a mixture of words of thanks, tips from gardeners and an announcement of an upcoming event. We'll begin with thanks to some great kids in Kitsap County. At the Port Orchard Gifts of the Garden Tour we were assisted by energetic teenagers: Rachel Cooper, Ebony Stoudermire, Vanessa Vowell, Ashlee Vowell, Somalia Grier and (CHRIS THERE'S ONE MORE NAME, I'LL EMAIL IT WHEN I GET IT - OTHERWISE OMIT IT) Great job girls! Special thanks too to Kyle, Tyler and Julie Rencher and Shannon and Tim Crabtree who've been helping us out at the Raab Park Youth Garden this spring and summer.

Easy Concrete Paths - Anne and Chuck Fair of Port Orchard shared this easy concrete walkway tip. The Fairs have created several paths using this method. One word of absolute caution is necessary. Do not make a solid cement pathway over your drain field or near your septic tank.

To make concrete walkways the quick and easy way, open up bags of cement or ready mix and spread the mixture directly onto pre-dug pathways. You can use bender board framing or invent your path as you go. Make sure the cement is one and a half to two inches thick.

Level the dry mixture with a board. Now turn your hose nozzle to a fine mist and mist the cement pathway until the water begins to puddle. Let the water settle. Repeat the process three or four times. You'll notice the concrete setting up and beginning to cure. That's all you need to do. You could also decorate the pathway with colorful stones, shells, glass beads or a myriad of decorative items before the cement hardens.

Burlap Bags - As stated in last week's column, so far the only Cenex that can order the burlap bags is the Poulsbo Cenex. Orders must be by the gross, which is 144 bags. That's \$144 dollars plus tax for burlap bags. Get some friends together and buy a few gross. The other alternative is to visit your favorite grocery store and ask the produce manager if he/she has any burlap bags to sell or give you. I'll provide burlap bag updates if I find any other sources.

Soil Moist - Here are two "Soil Moist" tips from Kim Gerlach of Kingston and Cecelia Newberry of Brownsville. Kim says, "Remember to leave extra room in your pots for the expansion of the Soil Moist." Cecelia moistens the Soil Moist beads ahead of time with water containing fertilizer according to the fertilizer package's directions. Thanks Kim and Cecelia.

Great Gardening Books and Videos at Kitsap Regional Libraries (KRL) - Ellen Newberg, KRL Director reminded me about the ever-growing collection of horticultural books and videos available. Half of the proceeds from the Heronswood open houses have been donated to purchase gardening books and videos. Visit [www.krl.org](http://www.krl.org) to view the list. You'll find eight pages of books and videos available. Contact one of the nine branches at: Manchester, Port Orchard, downtown Bremerton, Central Branch on Sylvan Way, Poulsbo, Little Boston, Kingston and Bainbridge. Or reserve books and videos online.

Some of the titles piquing my interest are: "Plants that Never Bloom," "The Color Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses," "Ferns to Know and Grow," "Furnishing the Old-Fashioned Garden: Three Centuries of American Summerhouse, Dovecotes, Privies, Pergolas, Fences and Birdhouses," and "How to Draw Plants." I also want to check out at least two videos. My choices so far would be "Beginner's Video Guide to Western Butterflies" and "Garden Steps and Steep Slopes." KRL has a video everyone will want to borrow, "Lawn Care With Ciscoe Morris." The cool thing about books and tapes from the library is it's the best way to find out if you want to invest money to add them to your own personal collection.

Second Annual Sweet Pea Festival - Don't forget to smell all the sweet pea bouquets at Winslow Hardware on Bainbridge on Friday, July 20 at 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In fact, if you grow sweet peas you might want to enter

the contest. Mary Hall, co-owner of Winslow Hardware & Mercantile loves sweet peas. She's encouraging all sweet pea gardeners to bring bouquets to the store by 9:45 a.m. on Friday. All bouquets will be on display until 2:00 p.m. Judges will announce winners on Friday evening. First prize is a \$50 gift certificate to Winslow Hardware; second prize is an old-fashioned BOSCO pitcher of the winner's choice; and third prize is the choice of a Winslow Hardware T-shirt, cap or mug. Contestants and sweet pea sniffers will be treated to complimentary home baked goodies. All bouquets will be donated to the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers from the Heart Program. Contact Mary at 206-842-3101.

*Send comments or questions to Peg at [gardenmentor@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenmentor@yahoo.com) or in care of this newspaper.*