

October will be a month full of great opportunities to learn more about gardening. This week's column is full of announcements.

Since it is my column, I'll tell you about my two classes first. On Wednesday, October 17, from 7-9 p.m. attend "Stress Free Gardening" to learn how to plan, design or remodel your gardens. Discover that fall is one of the best times to plant perennials, trees and shrubs. Find out about cover crops and winter vegetable gardening. You'll learn all this and more. Bring photos of your garden's problem areas and I'll help you solve gardening dilemmas. Class includes a packet of resource materials for future use. On Wednesday, October 24 from 7-9 p.m., I'll share five year's worth of children's activities from the Raab Park Youth Garden. This is a night away from the kids and you'll go home refreshed, rejuvenated and bursting with ideas of how you and your children can enjoy gardening. I'll also send you home with ideas for fall and winter activities. A packet of resource materials is included. Stress Free Gardening is Course Number AP37-1 and Gardening With Kids is Course Number is AP46-01. The fee for each class is \$27 and you can register by calling 779-9898. Classes will be in the Rec Center on Front Street in Poulsbo.

Megan Pulkkinen is the instructor for a fall gardening class at Fairview Jr. High on Tuesday October 2, from 7-9 p.m. Class participants will learn tips and techniques on pruning, planting, propagating and planning ahead for next year's garden. On Saturday Oct 27, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Pulkkinen will offer a class on Garden Design Basics. Students will learn where to start on rejuvenating an older garden or creating a new landscape. She'll teach participants how to turn ideas and priorities into a workable design. To register for either of the twenty dollar classes call the CK School District at 692-3171.

Kate Easton, President of Garden Vision Inc., will be the instructor of a six-week course through Olympic College starting on Tuesday evening October 30 at the main campus in Bremerton. According to Easton the course called "Professional Landscape Design" will cover topics "that will allow students to create natural, wildlife, water wise gardens for all exposures (shade, sun, hillside, marine, etc.), solve drainage problems, effectively use space, and enhance their landscape with patios, walls, terraces, fences, trellis and pathways. In addition, students will learn practical installation and maintenance tips to organize landscape projects effectively." Register for "Professional Landscape Design" by calling Olympic College at 360-478-4829. Kate can be reached at 360-895-5173 or via email at [garden\\_vision@email.msn.com](mailto:garden_vision@email.msn.com).

Don't forget to visit Valley Nursery on Bond Road in Poulsbo and Bainbridge Gardens on Day Road on Bainbridge Island. Valley Nursery has free classes on an ongoing basis and will be happy to add you to their mailing list. Ann Lovejoy and her staff at Bainbridge Gardens have classes every Saturday covering a myriad of topics that every gardener will enjoy. Many classes are free and others cost five dollars. Bainbridge Gardens also has a mailing list. Both nurseries will send you a newsletter listing their classes. Each newsletter also includes a myriad of helpful tips for gardeners. Call the nurseries if you can't visit and ask to be included on their mailing lists.

Bill O'Neill of the Rhododendron Society asked me to tell my readers that the Kitsap Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will resume its meetings starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Seabold Methodist Church on Bainbridge Island. The meeting hall is located just west of Hwy 305 at Seabold Church Road. Meetings are held the last Thursdays of most months and guests are welcome. For more information call Bill or Kerry at 206-842-8299. Everyone will want to attend the September meeting. It features a forum and hands-on demonstrations of methods of rhododendron propagation (from seeds, cuttings and grafts). It's a great free way to learn about these incredible plants.

Betty Clark has asked me to invite every gardener in Kitsap County to the Cross-Sound District of Garden Clubs' International Tea on Friday October 12. The event is from noon until 4:30 p.m. at the Silverdale Lutheran Church at 11707 Ridgetop Drive NW. Admission to the event is five dollars. Visitors will find eight tables with foods from different countries. They'll also enjoy a small flower show with floral designs and horticulture samples. Club members will also provide information and answer questions about belonging to a garden club. Call Betty at 697-1442 for more details.