

Happy Holidays! This week's column is collection of information. We'll begin with a few more tidbits about the Northwest Flower and Garden Show followed by information about leasing a community garden plot at the Raab Park Community Garden in Poulsbo.

Northwest Flower and Garden Show 2002:

415,000 pounds of rocks and boulders are placed in the show gardens each year by Marenakos Rock Center. Some of the boulders weigh 3-1/2 tons each. Sixty dump trucks from Sawdust Supply bring in fill dirt and mulch to form the foundation of the Show gardens. In the 2002 gardens Molbak's, Flower Growers of Puget Sound and Monrovia will force 9,197 flowering and foliage plants for the Show. More than 85,000 visitors are expected to attend. Last year gardeners purchased 10,000 orchids. Amazingly all the gardens you see are created inside the Convention Center in three and a half days.

Dan and Diane (CORRECT SPELLING) Robinson and their family from Elandan Gardens have designed and will create "A Passage to Reflection" an urban sanctuary for a family who rarely sees it in the daylight. It's a place to decompress after a stressful day. The focal point is a Japanese Red Pine, a carefully trained specimen providing a feeling of timelessness and security. Also featured is a collection of Dan's signature Bonsai.

Heronswood and Little & Lewis Water Gardens have teamed up to feature "On the Eaves of the World: In the Footsteps of Wilson." Their garden represents a realistic slice of nature as might have been experienced by E. H. Wilson and other Western botanical explorers traveling the high mountains of the Sichuan and Yunnan provinces in Western China in search of plants in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Step back in time but also experience the present in this show garden featuring plants hardy in USDA Zone 8 or less. As always Hinkley and Little & Lewis will inspire us to create small mirrors of their displays. We will never equal their expertise but they always give us hope for our own gardens.

Designer Jay Knode of Design Northwest, Hansville has teamed up with Derek Randles, Randles Landscape & Design, Tahuya, to create "The Charm of a Woodland Glade: A Small Backyard Garden." Their creation will take us into a cozy realm with the essence of a forest glade featuring maple, pine, a rock outcrop covered with blooms and a shaded grotto with a brook and pool. Visitors will be tempted to linger in this quiet respite.

Raab Park Community Garden:

Volunteers from the Raab Park Youth Garden, the Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority, Kitsap County Master Gardeners, the City of Poulsbo, North Kitsap Community members and Kitsap County Public Works have teamed up to form the Kitsap Community Garden Foundation. Their long-range goal is to have community gardens throughout Kitsap County.

The Raab Park Community Garden is their first project. The Garden will have fifty garden plots available to lease starting in March 2002. These plots will be located south of the existing Raab Park Youth Garden. Twenty of the plots are ten feet by twenty feet and thirty of the plots are twenty by twenty feet. Poulsbo Parks and Recreation is currently compiling a list of people interested in leasing a plot. Applications will be mailed out by the end of February. The larger plots will lease at thirty-five dollars per year and the smaller plots lease for twenty-five dollars per year. Call Poulsbo Parks and Rec at 779-9898 to reserve your garden plot. I'll be providing many more details in January and February. You can also email me at gardenmentor@yahoo.com.