

All my columns are great fun to write but this one gives me utmost joy. I can finally officially announce that I am the new Horticulture Coordinator for Kitsap County, WSU Extension. What a concept, I'll get paid for doing what I love best. Working with people and horticulture. It's the greatest of all worlds. I couldn't ask for any better job.

I'll definitely still be doing my column only now I'll have even more information to share with you each week. So HOORAY, HOORAY it's time to celebrate! Everyone go out and buy a plant or several to put in your garden. That's what Pat, my husband, and I will be doing.

While we're out there planting, we'll put in all the bulbs we've not yet planted. Hint, hint, you too can still plant your winter and early spring flowering bulbs. If nothing else at least put them in containers filled with potting soil. Plant them the same depth you would in your garden. Water them in and they'll be shooting up and blooming by spring.

My number at the Extension Office is 360-337-7224. The email address is [ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us) and mailing address is 614 Division Street MS-16, Port Orchard, WA 98366. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Our office is on Sidney in Port Orchard just north of the Conservation District Building. We're in a two-story building that was once a church social hall. Stop in and say hello to me in person. But call first because I'll be all over the county doing horticulture projects and activities.

I won't be the coordinator of the Raab Park Youth Garden anymore but it is in the capable hands of the incredible Donna Paulson who has been by my side from the very beginning and all our volunteers will keep the programs running. I'll be up there with the amazing Youth Garden volunteers every Wednesday night from mid April through the end of June helping get the garden ready for all the families in the summer. I'll be able to stop by some Mondays during the summer programs too to say hello. You can contact Donna Paulson and the Raab Park volunteers through Poulsbo Parks and Rec at 779-9898.

In the next few months I'll tell you about this year's new crops of Master Gardeners, Weed Advisors and Master Composters. All three groups along with the Horticulture Coordinator (that's me) are and will be resources for horticulture-related educational opportunities in Kitsap County.

I want to share two stories with you before I end today's column. My arborist friends, Jim Trainer and Janet Brown delivered a present to my office. It was a baby giant sequoia (is that an oxymoron?). I've always wanted one. Every time I visit our local nurseries I wander over to the tree section and fondle the sequoias. (My friend Fay Linger tells me I should stop doing that, but I ignore her.) Anyway, I won't be able to plant my new tree baby in our own garden because our neighbors wouldn't appreciate it growing up in their views. But I will find a good place to plant it in a Poulsbo City Park and we can all enjoy it.

My second gift was a framed certificate with portraits of the 1934 Pullman Grange – our WSU forefathers. Jean and Bob Web presented me with that gift. Jean calls them my “guardian angels.” The certificate is an antique and I look at it several times a day and wonder if the founding fathers are rolling over in their graves. I'll leave you all on that note. Until next week – happy gardening – and come see me at the Extension Office.

*You can email Peg at [ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us) or contact her at Kitsap County Extension.*

