

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 02-27-02) , ©2005

Get ready to garden and learn about gardening. March is upon us and it's time to put on those gardening gloves and get out there and start planting. Gardeners rev up your trowels.

In Kitsap County one of the first signs of spring is the Soroptimists Garden Show. The 7th Annual Show is March 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at North Kitsap High School, Caldart Avenue and Hostmark. Admission is a mere three dollars and children under 12 get in free.

All net proceeds will benefit local women and children's charities. Past recipients of the proceeds include: The Alive Shelter, Fishline Food Bank, Project Family and Kitsap Sexual Assault Center.

This year's show features a host of local speakers, artists, informational booths, Master Gardeners, Master Composters, Weed Advisors, raffles, food and much much more. Members of the Poulsbo Garden Club will be there to sign up new members, the Poulsbo Tree Board will have a veritable forest of information on selecting, planting and caring for trees.

Speakers will be in the main gym with the following topics: 10 a.m. Sylvia Smith from Poulsbo Marketplace Thriftway will talk about container plants; 11 a.m. Peg Tillery will talk about vegetable gardening and throw in some hints about including kids in the process; 12 noon is Scott Edward of Scott's Tree Service with a hands on demonstration of the correct way to prune trees and shrubs including fruit trees; 1 p.m. June Dutton of Beyond Balloons, Florist and Gifts in Silverdale, will share over thirty years experience with us so we can learn the basics of flower arranging; and finally, at 2 p.m. Kate Ebert of Home Depot will offer tips and advice on building water features in our landscapes.

My favorite thing about this community event each year is the size. It's a very cozy, user-friendly event. Even if you have only an hour to spare you'll enjoy your time spent thinking about spring and gardening and I'll bet you'll even take home a bouquet of ideas, tips and inspiration and maybe even a few plants.

This event is truly kid friendly too. It's small enough so no one gets lost and no one minds if kids act like kids. Heck they won't even mind if adults act a bit like children.

This is also the time of year when we start thinking about growing or maintaining fruit trees. It's the perfect time to purchase and plant bare-root trees, shrubs and plants of all kinds. To find out more about growing fruit trees here you'll want to partake of two activities sponsored by the Peninsula Fruit Club.

The Club offers a free fruit tree grafting class from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday March 2 at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds across the street from the Pavilion, downstairs in the Eagle's Nest Catering building. Rootstock (apple, plum and pear) and dozens of varieties of scion wood will be on sale at very reasonable prices.

The Peninsula Fruit Club is also having a free pruning demonstration at 10 a.m. on March 9 along the Clear Creek Trail beginning at the Red Barn, 9300 Levin Road, Silverdale. For information about both these events call 360-697-2783 evenings and weekends before 9 p.m.

Send questions or comments to Peg in care of this newspaper or email gardenmentor@yahoo.com