

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 04-03-02) , ©2005

Get out your calendars. Today's column is packed with events you won't want to miss. I'll try to squeeze in as many announcements as I can. Here goes.

Several local nurseries are offering Earth Day and Arbor Day specials. If your favorite nursery isn't listed give them a call or stop by and ask if they have any great deals in honor of these two events being celebrated all month long.

Bainbridge Gardens has 25 percent off on Native Plants for Earth Day on April 22 and 25 percent off on trees for Arbor Day on April 26. They'll also have a featured tree on sale to benefit Peace Trees in Vietnam.

Roadhouse Nursery on Central Valley Road (North of Waaga Way) is giving away conifer seedlings (Shore Pine, Western Red Cedar and Hemlock) for Washington State's Arbor Day the week of April 8-14 and will have bare root trees and free conifer seedlings with a limit of five per family. The giveaway will continue while supplies last.

Elk Meadows Nursery in Brinnon will have four-year-old Abies Noble Fir 'frijsenborg Blue' bareroot for \$2.25. Stop at Whitney Gardens while you're in Brinnon and check out the Rhodies and Azaleas.

Central Market in Poulsbo will feature displays from all over the county with information on earth friendly practices on Friday April 12 through Sunday April 14. Compost information, demonstrations and composter sales will be featured from 9:30 to 3:30 on Saturday April 20 at Bainbridge Island Town and Country Thriftway and from 9:30 to 3:30 on Sunday April 21 at Central Market in Poulsbo.

Help kickoff the Raab Park Community Garden, Caldart Street in Poulsbo, on Saturday April 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Weed Advisors will be there with information about noxious weeds. Master Composters will have information and demonstrations and Master Gardeners will have vegetable growing tips. You can even show up and lease 10 x 10 foot and 10 x 20 foot garden plots for \$25 and \$35 respectively for a whole year. In addition you can purchase a tile stone for the positive expressions "Word Walk." The Creative Creatures 4-H group will be there to sell you and/or your family a tile for ten dollars. Stop off at Austerbruin Housing across from the park and help plant a tree in their neighborhood in honor of Arbor Day.

While we're talking about trees Puget Sound Energy has arborists Jim Trainer and Janet Brown on staff to help you select desirable trees for neighborhood landscapes. Janet and Jim will come to your group and give talks offering tips and advice on trees. Call Janet at 360-475-7067 and Jim at 888-225-5773. The Cities of Poulsbo, Bremerton and Bainbridge Island have certified arborists who can also give you advice and information about tree planting programs in their area.

Stillwaters Environmental Educational Center, Barber Cutoff Road across from Gordon Elementary School in Kingston, will have Earth Day activities all day on Saturday April 20. You'll find speakers, exhibits and abundant information for earth-friendly practices.

Maybe you'll want to take a few classes this month. On April 14 at Bainbridge Gardens Master Gardener and Composter Kathy Morse will help you learn how to turn green wastes into garden gold through composting. Saturday April 20 at Valley Nursery at 8 a.m. Eric Gayman shares his expertise on Japanese Maples. Learn which are best for spring color, showy fall color and container gardening. Carolyn Zand and Paula Anderson will tantalize you with colorful container combinations at 8 a.m. on Saturday April 27 and 1 p.m. on Sunday April 28. Call Valley Nursery and Bainbridge Gardens to reserve space in these free classes.

If these ideas don't appeal why not invent your own activities to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day. You'll find as many choices as there are plants in our gardens. Happy April!

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