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Get out your calendars June has opportunities galore for gardeners. In the last two columns you heard about the WSNLA (Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association) Olympic Chapter. On June 12 you can meet some of these folks at a dinner auction starting at 7 p.m. at North Kitsap High School. NKHS Future Farmers of America students will be assisting as part of their leadership program.

Scholarship recipients for 2001 were Aaron Claiborne and Kristen Oas. Claiborne, a former Bainbridge Gardens employee, attends WSU majoring in Environmental Science. Oas, 2001 NKHS graduate and 2000-2001 Miss Viking Fest and 2001 Kitsap County Rodeo Queen, is studying Agricultural Science at Olympic College and will transfer to WSU.

Scholarships and grants are still available. Contact Olympic Chapter Secretary Kate Easton at [garden\\_vision@msn.com](mailto:garden_vision@msn.com) or call the WSNLA State Office at 800-672-7711. To submit donations to the auction or reserve tickets contact Kate Easton at 360-895-5173 by June 1.

Gifts of the Garden South Kitsap Garden Tour is Saturday and Sunday June 22 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The tour begins at Cedar Springs "Pavilion by the Lakes" 7354 Bethel Burley Rd SE Port Orchard. Free parking is at Cedar Springs with shuttles picking up and delivering passengers to each of the gardens. Parking is limited at each of the gardens and the shuttle is the recommended means of touring. The fabulous gardens will include: a garden nestled in the woods, a northwest woodland garden, a country style garden, a whimsical garden and a showcase garden.

Cedar Springs is the location for art, lunch and other temptations. Linda Spearman, Watercolorist, has created the Gifts of the Garden poster for this year available at fifteen dollars each. You'll find a unique array of vendor booths and Le Garmarache' will provide a Garden Tea Luncheon.

All proceeds benefit the Kerry Ogden Memorial Scholarship fund for disadvantaged youth. Tickets (at fifteen dollars) are available at the following locations: Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority; Elegant Clutter, South Kitsap Mall; Port Orchard Nursery; Bergers Nursery, Bremerton; Country Nursery and Gardens, Seabeck Highway; and Sidney Village, Port Orchard. KCCHA is located at 9307 Bayshore Drive NW in Silverdale. Call Gloria 360-535-6163 for further details.

Compost is an important component of healthy gardens. You'll want to attend these free opportunities. Stop at the Northwest College of Arts Garden on Sunday June 9 from 9 a.m. to noon to learn how to make compost tea and manure tea. Find out about worm composting and information on bugs. All attendees will take home a free sample of compost tea. Entrance to the College is across from the George Fireworks Stand on Highway 305 near Milepost Nine.

The Raab Park Community Garden Compost class this month is Thursday June 11 from 6:30 to 8:30. This site has nearly every compost system you could imagine. The award winning Compost Queens will walk you through all aspects of composting. Kitsap Public Works provides a free packet of composting materials with each class.

“Doo for You” - On June 12 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Kitsap County Fair Grounds you can get a free load of aged manure courtesy of the animals at last year’s fair. Since September Kitsap Parks and Recreation has composted a mixture of 20 percent livestock manure (horse, sheep, cow, goat, poultry, rabbits, llamas and swine) and 80 percent straw, hay and wood shavings. The compost pile reached sustained temperatures of over 140 degrees for several weeks and considerable decomposition has taken place.

However, all the materials, especially the wood chips have not completely broken down. The Kitsap Conservation District recommends adding grass clippings or additional materials to generate a hot compost pile to produce finished compost in 45 days. After this additional composting the material will be ready to use as a mulch around trees, top dressing for your lawn or soil amendment for ornamental flower beds. And – such a deal – the Kitsap County Parks and Recreation staff will load the aged manure into your pick up truck or trailer. For more information call 337-5350.

*Contact Peg in care of this newspaper or email her at [gardenmentor@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenmentor@yahoo.com)*