

Today's column is full of miscellaneous items. We'll cover: educational and earth friendly opportunities during September; RPM "Seattle Composters" available at Bainbridge Gardens Nursery; and some unusual insect information.

Saturday September 7 starting at 9:30 a.m. you can learn all about "Seed Collection and Preservation" presented by Kitsap County Master Gardener Shaari Unger. The class is at the walled garden at the Northwest College of Arts in Poulsbo/Suquamish. The entrance is on Highway 305 (near Milepost 9) across from the George Fireworks Stand. The class is free but bring a canning jar and lid for vacuum sealing your seeds. This is a hands-on demonstration.

Thursday September 12 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. attend a compost class at the Raab Park Community Garden in Poulsbo. The garden is at the south end of Caldart. You'll learn about composting, take home a packet of useful information and have plenty of time to ask questions and find solutions to your composting problems. Call 337-5777 to reserve a space. WSU Extension Kitsap and Kitsap County Department of Public Works sponsor this free class.

September 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for ten dollars attend a "Land Development and Sustainable Landscaping with Native Plants" workshop at Eagles Nest at 1200 NW Fairgrounds Road. Bring a sack lunch and wear comfortable walking shoes. Presenters are: Donna Alber (WSU Extension Kitsap Master Gardener); Val Koehler and Jackie Youngblood (Kitsap DCD Stream Team); Wendy McClure (Native Plant Society) and Sandra Jacobson (Kitsap Conservation District Native Plant Program). Contact Kitsap Parks and Rec at 337-5743 Extension 2 to register or contact Sandra at 337-7171 Extension 2.

Bainbridge Gardens will have a class on "Natural Care: Basics and Beyond" from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday October 2 and 3. Conference fee of thirty dollars each day includes lunch. Attendees can attend one or both days. The class includes credit for WSNLA and WSDA certification. Speakers are: Professor Vicki Bess of Arizona State, Director of BBC Labs in Tempe, Arizona; Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, Center for Urban Horticulture, Seattle; Richard Fenske, Department of Environmental Health, University of Washington; Dennis Gonzales, Sunrise Pest Management, Bremerton (Certified IPM Instructor); E.J. Hook, Landscape Supervisor, Woodland Park Zoo; Steve Minch, Operations Manager, Bainbridge Gardens; and Nancy Parrott, Twiss Analytical Laboratory, Poulsbo. Call the nursery at 206-842-5888 to register.

RPM "Seattle Composters" are available at Bainbridge Gardens at the special price of \$54.24. If you can't make it to Bainbridge Gardens call the WSU Kitsap Extension Office at 337-7157 or Kitsap Public Works at 337-5777 for an order form to purchase the composter from RPM for fourteen dollars more shipped directly to your home via UPS.

Most insects spend part of their life pupating from a larva into an adult form. Some have more than one pupating stage. Many gardeners in Kitsap County are starting to find these pupal cases in their gardens, homes, and even emerging from a dead mouse. (It was a botfly pupa.) We've received the mouse and several pupa cases at the Extension Office recently. I cut one open and you could see where the larva was starting to form its wings and legs. It was fascinating. Most of the pupa cases you'll find will turn into flies, butterflies, moths or beetles. Dr. Art Antonelli at WSU Puyallup says the only way to determine the insect is wait until it emerges. A great entomology website is <http://entomology.usl.edu> from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Check it out.

Fall Webworms are starting to form on deciduous trees throughout the county. The fall webworm is better behaved than the tent caterpillars. Fall webworms stay within their tents at all times. Prune off the entire nest

and drop it into a bucket of soapy water. If the tree has heavy infestations or the webs are unreachable the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) can be used. It is only effective if the webworms are actively feeding. The insecticide works on the leaves surrounding the tents too because the webworms enlarge and move tents when they have consumed the foliage within the current tent. Usually the trees recover and no chemical treatment is necessary. The insects overwinter in dark brown cocoons in bark and leaf litter on the ground. Rake the ground under the affected tree after leaf fall, discarding all the fallen leaves. Don't compost the webworm material with the cocoons in it.

Contact Peg with questions or comments in care of this newspaper or at gardenmentor@yahoo.com.