

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 9-18-02) , ©2005

So little time, so little space, so much to tell. I have several weeks' worth of ideas to tell you about, dear readers, but alas there are way too many great opportunities for gardeners that need to be announced. I'd feel bad if you missed out on any of these, so here goes with a column full of announcements.

On September 24 learn how to create a backyard wildlife sanctuary on your own property. Trisha Merritt will present a class about the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. The event is at North Kitsap High School. Participants will learn to create their own landscape to gain certification. Vermiculture and other organic methods of gardening will be touched on and a visit to local habitats is included. An additional fee for the tour will be announced at the class. Pre-registration is required by calling NK Parks and Rec at 779-9898 for information.

The WSU Master Gardeners of Kitsap County want you to attend two workshops at two of their gardens. Wednesday September 28 at 2 p.m. Master Gardner and Peninsula Fruit Club member Mike Shannon will give information, tips and hands-on demonstrations of how to espalier fruit trees. He'll talk about pears and apples and show several methods of espalier. The demonstration will be at the Anna Smith Children's Garden on Tracyton Beach Road (a.k.a. Tracyton Blvd). Parking is in the parking lot on Fairgrounds Road across from the entrance to Anna Smith. Look for the signs on the road. Bring a blanket or folding chair for sitting. Refreshments will be provided and the Master Gardeners will also be selling compost tea. If the skies are pouring rain the demonstration will be moved to the Community Center in Silverdale.

On Sunday September 29 from 1-3 p.m. at the Northwest College of Arts Walled Garden the WSU Kitsap County Master Gardeners will present a program on "Plant Propagation from Cuttings." Learn from experienced Master Gardeners the techniques to start your own berries, flowers, shrubs and trees by rooting stem cuttings. The Master Gardeners will provide plenty of plants for cuttings, potting materials, and light refreshments. If you have a special plant to share please bring it along. This workshop is open to the public especially and is "hands on" so dress appropriately and plan to take home a cutting or two. The Northwest College of Arts Garden is on Highway 305 in Suquamish (near Milepost 9). The driveway entry is almost directly across from the George Fireworks Stand.

Mary Earl (who writes "Grape Expectations" for What's Up) asked me to tell you about this most excellent opportunity. On October 5 the Clear Creek Task Force will be celebrating their hard work and accomplishments and especially thanking all the sponsors in Silverdale. One of the day's activities is a Native Plant Sale from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rotary Park. A section of the park is called Gateway Park off of Silverdale Way north of Waaga Way and south of Skateboard Park. Mary says, "If you're walking off the Clearcreek Trail by the bowling alley you would have to cross Silverdale Way and take

the path through Gateway Park..” Ample parking is available. That’s good because the plants are very enticing and you’ll want to stock up.

Plants are being provided by Scott and Dixie Edwards’ Watershed Garden. Dixie worked on the Clear Creek Watershed. Mary says, “I just love some of the names: maidenhair fern, pearly everlasting, goatsbeard, lady fern (what does the gentleman fern look like?), tufted hair, yellow monkey flower, beach pea, blue eye grass, inside out flower, youth on age, bear grass (cuz it’s big or tough to mow?).” Sam Holcomb is coordinating the Native Plant Sale. And, I’m sure you can contact Mary at Grape Expectations in Silverdale or via phone at 698-0522 with questions. Sounds like a great opportunity to buy some plants that will thrive in our Northwest gardens.

Last, but not least, here’s a poem a young weed aficionado named Scott Mathews sent me: “Ode to a weed scientist – Now in this age of knowledge/where did I wrongly go, all advice was taken, but I should have used the hoe.” By Beste. Thanks Scott, I hope you got an A plus on your weed report.