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Garden Coach Maria Carlos is teaching two classes this month through Poulsbo Parks and Recreation. Gardening in autumn is from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday October 15 at North Kitsap High School. The fee is \$21. Autumn wreath making is Tuesday October 22 from 7-9 p.m. at North Kitsap High School. The fee is fifteen dollars plus a ten-dollar materials fee. Call 360-779-9898 to register.

Maria's garden consultation service is called Agua-Mansa (Calm Waters). She also has an herb garden and many visitors to the Kingston and Gig Harbor Farmers Markets have probably seen her herb wreaths, bouquets and products. Others will remember Maria from her days at Heronswood. Her business mission statement says she's, "committed to providing gardeners of all experience levels the informational tools for designing and creating their dream home garden."

Agua Mansa is the name of the cemetery in Southern California where Maria's great-grandmother is buried. Agua Mansa is Spanish for calm waters. The bilingual business name is Maria's way to honor the bravery of her pioneering and entrepreneurial ancestors. Her grandparents had a tortilla factory in Colton, California. Her uncle, Thomas Carlos is refurbishing the cemetery where her ancestors are buried.

As a gardening consultant Maria discovered she was actually coaching her clients in the practices of planning, planting and maintaining their gardens. She had read an article about garden coaching and decided that description more aptly described her career. Maria had always gone to the consultations with her Felcos in hand and pruned away showing clients how to properly trim and maintain their plants. "It's teaching as you go. It's really delightful. It's turning people on to gardening," she exclaims describing the joy found in gardening. Maria adds, "To me life is gardening – it's as vital as breathing."

You can contact Maria by writing to PO Box 2416, Poulsbo, Washington 98370 or by calling 360-394-3734. Better yet, sign up for one of her classes and meet her in person.

Speaking of classes the University of Washington Sea Grant Program is offering free workshops at the new Silverdale Fire Station, 5300 NW Newberry Hill Road. The last two in a series of four classes are: "Healthy Drinking Water and Good Working Septic Systems" on October 5 and "Rain Runoff and Erosion" on October 12. Both classes are held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. For information call (360) 337-4653.

You also won't want to miss the "Softbank Workshop" at the Silverdale Hotel on October 12 from (INSERT DETAILS HERE)

If you've been thinking about taking the 2003 Master Gardener Volunteer Training classes the deadline is fast approaching. The WSU Kitsap County Extension Office will be mailing out the application packets between October 20 and November 1. The deadline to request an application is October 18. The primary criteria is a willingness to

share what you've learned with the public using Washington State University research based materials. There is also a mandatory payback requirement of 50 hours of volunteer work between April and October of 2003. Classes will run every Friday January 10 through March 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. To request a registration packet email ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us or call 360-337-7157.