

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 11-06-02) , ©2005

This is the time of year many of us finally get around to all the garden projects we've put off the rest of the year. In fact, it's the perfect time for certain pruning, removal and clean up of debris. If you own a chipper/shredder you can turn all those materials into mulch to spread around your garden or add it to your compost pile remembering to aim for a balance of brown and green materials.

I checked with Dave Peters at Kitsap County Public Works to find out options for disposal or use of all that woody and herbaceous debris. If you have Internet access key in www.kitsapgov.com/sw/recycle.asp?ItemID+29 and you'll find a listing of "Woody Debris – Drop Off" spots throughout the county. The general Public Works site is www.kitsapgov.com/sw and you can click on numerous areas of the site to find out about composting, burn ban areas, natural lawn care, how to dispose of antifreeze and used motor oil, and a host of other useful recycling and earth-friendly topics. Customer support numbers are 360-337-5777 or 800-825-4940.

Kitsap Public Works can even help you find a way to dispose of computer monitors and televisions. Techno Trash will pick up computers and televisions and recycle them. Call 360-638-2301 for service fee information. Business with large quantities of monitors or televisions may contact Total Reclaim at 206-763-9939 for pick-up. Fees are charged for these services.

Country Gardens and Nursery on the Seabeck Highway asked me to tell my readers about their line of organic gardening products. Stop in at the nursery to check out their complete line of organic products. One line is Hendrikus Schraven Organics. The products are registered with the State of Washington Department of Agriculture and certified organic by the WSDA Organic Food Program. Stop in at the nursery to take advantage of their end of season sale on herbaceous plants and trees. Voice your appreciation of their organic products lines.

Contact Val Koehler Kitsap County Stream Team Specialist at 360-337-7290 or vkoehler@co.kitsap.wa.us to receive information about the Kitsap County Watershed Mini-Grants. The Mini-Grant program offers up to \$2500 for local education and restoration projects that address water quality, stormwater management, stream habitat, wetlands, lakes and nearshore habitat. Preference is given to applications that actively involve local residents by promoting stewardship for our water resources. Conservation organizations, youth and neighborhood groups, fishing and service clubs in addition to schools and businesses are encouraged to apply.

This program is funded by Kitsap County's Surface and Stormwater Management and administered by the Department of Community Development. Grants projects must be designed to benefit citizens residing in unincorporated areas of Kitsap County. Incorporated areas including Poulsbo, Bremerton, Port Orchard and Bainbridge Island do not qualify. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than January 2, 2003.

Award letter to recipients will be received in early February. Contact Val for details or answers to questions.

Last but not least it's time for the Third Annual Salmon Tours event. Register by calling Deborah Thomas at the Public Utility District at 360-779-7592 Extension 723. For the bargain price of ten dollars per person or twenty-five dollars per family you can spend a day exploring four salmon habitats in Kitsap County on Saturday November 16. Call Deb for reservations. Kitsap Transit buses will transport participants to four salmon streams in the North Kitsap area. Local biologists will meet the group at each site to discuss the salmon life cycle as well as the components of healthy streams. After the tour participants will return to North Kitsap High School at approximately 1 p.m. for a lunch catered by Judith Weinstock of Kingston's Community Art Works. Artist and salmon advocate Tom Jay is the luncheon speaker.

The four habitats explored are: a healthy stream on Dog Fish Creek; a restored stream site running through a farm on Gamble Creek; the Grovers Creek Fish Hatchery and the estuarine habitat at Apple Tree Cove. An extra perk of the event is the Stillwaters Environmental Learning Center in Kingston. Participants should dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. Salmon Tours 2002 is a day of celebration of the continued return of our Northwest Salmon and is sponsored by UW Sea Grant Program, Surface and Storm Water Management, Kitsap County DCD, WSU Cooperative Extension Program and Kitsap P.U.D.

Contact Peg in care of this newspaper or via email at gardenmentor@yahoo.com