

I hope you don't have anything on your calendar for this Saturday November 23. The Washington State University Kitsap County Master Gardener Foundation is sponsoring an excellent all day workshop featuring Carrie Becker from Bellevue Botanical Gardens and Cass Turnbull, President and founder of Plant Amnesty. The all day event running from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. is free to all Master Gardeners and open to all of the public for the bargain rate of ten dollars per person. The location is Crossroads Neighborhood Church at 7555 Old Military Road NE. The site can hold 200 people so there's plenty of room. Parking is free and also ample.

Carrie Becker was one of the designers of the Bellevue Botanical Gardens. The site is completely organic and water wise. Carrie's slides are incredible and her expertise and knowledge are equally great. She's a King County Master Gardener and the Botanical Gardens are an inspiration especially to lovers of perennial plants.

Cass Turnbull makes very few public appearances and believe me a ten dollar fee to see both these stellar horticulture experts is more than a bargain. Cass too has slides to share and her advice and talk offers technical tips for pruning (and when not to prune). You'll also enjoy her slide gallery of "unusually pruned atrocities."

Carrie is scheduled from 9 until noon with a one hour lunch break before Cass's talk from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The ten dollar admission fee is payable at the door. You can call the WSU Kitsap Extension Office at 360-337-7157 if you have questions. No reservations are required.

If you can't spare all day Saturday and want to know how to identify dangerous trees that may reside on your property take a walk along the Clear Creek Trail with Puget Sound Energy Foresters Jim Trainer and Janet Brown. The title of their walk/talk is "Storms over the Kitsap Forest." Meet at the Red Barn on the Clear Creek Trail on Saturday November 23 at 1 p.m. No registration is necessary. For more information call 1-888-225-5773. Sponsored by Puget Sound Energy and Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management.

Jim and Janet are Certified Arborists for Puget Sound Energy and are WSU Kitsap Master Gardeners. I don't know how they both accomplish all the great things they do in Kitsap County. They're available to talk to groups and serve on many committees throughout the county. Janet serves on the Poulsbo Tree Board. Jim is active on many committees most notably Kitsap Trees. Puget Sound Energy is also involved in salvaging trees all over the Northwest Region of Washington State. There are two tree salvage nurseries in Kitsap County – one at Jarstad Park in Gorst and a new nursery being set up on Bainbridge Island.

Jim will represent PSE at Priest Lake Park in Olympia this week at the planting of the ten millionth tree in the United States for the National Tree Trust. The tree is a Western Hemlock and Jim was notified by the Department of Natural Resources to attend the event and meet Governor Gary Locke. Way to go Jim!

For more information on Plant Amnesty and National Tree Trust visit www.plantamnesty.org or www.nationaltreetrust.org.

This final topic has nothing to do with plants but it does have to do with nourishing the body. My WSU Kitsap Cooperative Extension co-workers Sally Evenson, Family Living Program Manager, and Gayle Alleman, Nutrition Program Coordinator, want to share their Thanksgiving food preparation tips. You can call the Extension Office at 360-337-7157 and our staff will mail you the tip sheets for November and December.

Contact Peg in care of this newspaper or via email at gardenmentor.com or ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us.