

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 01-22-03) , ©2005

Christmas continued well into the New Year when Christine Newell of Bremerton Fred Meyer and Debra Hall of South Kitsap Fred Meyer presented Master Gardeners Dave Reckner and Megan Allen with thousands of dollars worth of bulbs as a donation to the Washington State University Master Gardeners of Kitsap County. And that's not all, the beneficiaries are spread all over the county. In fact several thousand bulbs even ended up in Mason County.

Newell wanted Dave Reckner and the Master Gardeners to find spots all over the County to plant thousands of bulbs creating beauty all spring. Not to be outdone Debra Hall provided thousands more bulbs for beautification. Then Dave and Megan rounded up the volunteers and the gardeners gave up many days during the Christmas Holidays and even New Year weekend, in all kinds of weather – rain, freezing cold and on occasion sunshine – planting and potting up bulbs, bulbs and more bulbs.

Crews in North Kitsap met at both the Northwest College of Arts Garden and at the Raab Park Youth Garden. Diana Lewis with her son Brian as a willing helper spent countless hours with planters Kathy Morse, Sheri Kiley, and Judy Jurgens. Donna Paulson planted away at Raab Park rounding up two willing FAA members Brandon Borchers and Darren Larsen. Diana and Brian had so much fun they headed down to Tracyton to help the planting group there.

At Anna Smith Garden in Tracyton Anji Ogden, Rosemary Long, Dave Reckner, Vivian Bernard, Irene Dulin, Eric Hunter and Oggie Ogden spent countless hours potting and planting. In the spring be sure to visit all these gardens to see them awash in a sea of tulips, daffodils, crocus, squill and Asiatic lilies.

In Retsil Megan was also working away with her able helpers. Volunteers Bob Webb, Jackie and Myrlene Young, Donna Waring, Sharon Howard, Chris Akers, Virginia Jones and Debra Hall merrily planted away. Over 2500 bulbs will decorate the Retsil Cemetery and will also be popping up at the Port Orchard Visitor Center where DeLona Kent has hundreds of bulbs planted with help from the Retsil group. Megan Allen and Sharon Howard traveled to Belfair to donate bulbs to Harmony Hill Hospice. Harmony Hill will call upon the Mason County WSU Master Gardeners to get the job done there.

Dave Reckner is still looking for places to plant more bulbs. For now bulbs were planted at Martha and Mary in Poulsbo, Frances Morgan Center for the Developmentally Disabled in West Bremerton, Forest Ridge Health and Rehabilitation Center, and will soon be planted at the "Eden" (Hospice) area at Forest Ridge in Bremerton. Bulbs were also planted at Renaissance Alternative High School.

Many of the bulbs were planted into pots to await new homes. Dave Reckner, Megan Allen and their crews are searching out additional spaces to beautify. A huge thank you

goes out to Fred Meyer and to Debra Hall and Christina Newell. They've found a way to carry the Christmas spirit way into the New Year.

Regretfully I neglected to mention Bess Bronstein and Little and Lewis in my Northwest Flower and Garden Show column. The incredible Little and Lewis are speaking on Thursday February 20 "An Artists Perspective, Light and Color in the Garden. Bess Bronstein, Kitsap's renowned Horticulture Instructor from Edmonds Community College, will talk Friday, February 21, on the topic of Time as a Design Consideration "See a Garden Grow from Bare Ground to Garden in 5 Years." My apologies for the omission.

Put January 25 on your calendars. The Chums of Barker Creek invite you to join them from 9 until noon starting at Three Springs located on the east side of Nels Nelson Road as it intersects with Barker Creek Road. Kitsap County's Stream Team, Parks Department and other volunteers will be removing noxious weeds from the county property at Three Springs a ten-acre site. Bring a shovel, gloves and something to drink or snack on and don't forget your rain gear.

Also on January 25 Puget Sound Energy Forester and WSU Master Gardener Jim Trainer invites volunteers to join him at the City of Bremerton's station at Jarstad Park (4398 West Belfair Valley Road) for restoration planting along the riparian corridors of Gorst Creek. Bring a shovel, something the drink/snack on and dress for the weather. Contact Jim at 206-718-3845 for further information.