

Today's column is a full of announcements. I hope many of you have a chance to visit the Northwest Flower and Garden Show this week. The show is at the Convention Center in Seattle. Shuttle bus service is available at Northgate Mall if you take the Kingston-Edmonds Ferry. If you want to walk on from Bremerton or Bainbridge you can walk up to Second Avenue and take a bus to the show at the corner bus stop outside Warshall's Sporting Goods Store.

Numerous folks from this side of the pond will be there during the run of the show. Try to catch a talk or demonstration presented by Dan Hinkley, Charlotte Lombard, Little & Lewis, Ann Lovejoy, Bess Bronstein and me. Call the Show at 1-800-229-6311 or go online to www.gardenshow.com for a schedule. Many of our local nurseries, designers and landscapers are also designing and installing many of the incredible display gardens and staffing many of the informational booths.

I received my annual mailing from Nels Sundquist who will have "Cool Plants" from his nursery at Show Booths 336 and 337 all five days. Some of the selections available at the booth are: "Incredible Crocosmias; Pacific Coast Iris; Gold Heart bleeding heart; Verbascum; Purple Rain Jacob's Ladder; Patty's Plum poppy; platoon of Epimedium; a gaggle of geraniums; Sunspot Heucherella; Hepatica acutiloba; Hellebores; Sapphire Blue Sea Holly and so much more."

You'll also want to mark these dates on your calendars for Nels' quarterly open houses at the nursery: Saturday April 19 (Day of Daffodils – 15,000 Smiling Faces Epimediums and Spring Treats); Friday and Saturday May 30 and 31 (Native Intelligence – Pacific Coast Irises and so much more!); Friday and Saturday July 18 and 19 (Mad Dog Days - Summer Splendor, Ferns Fuchsias, Grasses and more!); and last but not least Friday and Saturday September 19 and 20 (Harvest Days - Kaleidoscopic Foliage – Container Color and more!).

March is fast approaching. March 1 is the annual Soroptimist Garden Show and Sale. In its eighth year the show this year is at Woodward Middle School on 9125 Sportsman Club Road NE on Bainbridge Island. The show is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dan Hinkley is the special guest speaker. His topic is "Punctuation, Exclamation, Accentuation: the Importance of Texture in the Garden" beginning at noon. This year's show will feature vendors selling plants, bulbs, shrubs, seeds, baskets, herbs, garden art and more. WSU Master Gardeners will be there to answer your gardening questions too. Net proceeds will benefit Bainbridge Helpline House and North Kitsap Fishline. Dan's presentation is twenty dollars which includes admission to the show. For ticket information contact The Direct Approach at 360-337-1111.

This year WSU Master Gardeners will offer gardening demonstrations, talks and hands-on education at several locations in Kitsap County. I'll mention these events regularly in my column. Also look for announcements in the Kitsap Newspaper Group's individual calendar pages and in "What's Up" on Wednesdays. Mark your calendars for March 15 from 1 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. The Northwest College of Arts Garden and surrounding orchard will be the site for hands-on pruning demonstrations by WSU Master Gardener and Peninsula Fruit Club members Oggie Ogden and Mike Shannon. Oggie will give pruning tips at 1 p.m. and Mike will demonstrate espalier techniques starting at 2:30.

That same weekend running Friday March 14 through Sunday March 16 come visit the Native Plant Display at the Home & Garden Expo in the Pavilion at the Fairgrounds. Kitsap County Public Works Solid Waste Department, WSU Cooperative Extension and the Native Plant Society will be staffing a display showing examples of Native Plants that are ideal to use in our Northwest gardens. They're easy-care, attractive, disease free, drought-free and appealing. You can stop by and pick up a mini-compact disk showing many of the Native Plants for your garden.

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