

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 6-11-03 (What's Up) and 6-14-03 (Patriot) , ©2005

Today's column has information about upcoming gardening activities for kids from young through antiquity. If you don't have any kids go out and borrow a few or why not pretend you're a kid for a day or so.

The Kitsap Public Utilities District and SSWM (Stream and Storm Water Management) "Water Wonders Day Camp" offering "three days of watershed fun for kids ages seven through twelve is at two sites this year: Scenic Beach State Park in Seabeck on July 15, 16 and 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and at Island Lake Community Center in Central Kitsap on July 29, 30 and 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is a \$45 fee per camper. Contact Debbie Thomas at 779-7592 extension 723 or Pat Kirschbaum at 337-7290. Only 30 spaces are available per session and application deadline is June 30.

The Award-Winning Raab Park Youth Garden in Poulsbo has free gardening activities for kids every Monday from June 30 through August 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every group of kids must be accompanied by an adult. WSU Master Gardeners and community volunteers plan and coordinate the activities and are celebrating their seventh season in the garden. Take Highway 305 going towards Bainbridge Island, turn left on Hostmark Street and right on Caldart Street. For more information call Poulsbo Parks and Rec at 779-9898.

Anna Smith Children's Garden in Tracyton is open to the public for gardening information, classes and tours every Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:30. Bring a picnic along and walk down to the beach after your lunch and tour of the garden. Parking is available on Fairground Road on the left side as soon as you turn from Tracyton Boulevard. The path to the park leads through a wooded area opening out into a meadow edged with a pond. You'll also enjoy the new Native Plants walk through the woods.

Bainbridge in Bloom this year has added a delightful garden especially created by Teri Cole for children and their accompanying adults. The theme is "Sow the Seeds of a Lifelong Passion." Wednesday July 9 the Children's Garden debuts at Crooked Post Farms at Rolling Bay from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the cost is very affordable at five dollars per child. Adults and children under two are free. The event is a fundraiser for the new Children's Museum on the Island.

Renowned designer, artist and gardener Teri Cole's magical garden Crooked Post Farm has rabbits, lambs, feathered creatures and whimsy galore. You'll be able to return to her garden as part of the Bloom but can have a delightful preview on Wednesday. You'll find hands on garden activities sponsored by the Children's Museum, the only museum of its kind on the peninsula, soon to enchant, educate and entertain any family or individual.

Third graders from Ordway, Wilkes and Blakely Elementary Schools designed three areas of Teri's garden: a butterfly garden, pizza garden and a Peter Rabbit garden. The students chose the plants, grew the plants and helped create the gardens.

Age appropriate activities will be sponsored all day. Kids will learn the life cycle of the butterfly and make a butterfly to take home; collect seeds to plant at home; make biodegradable paper pots and plant pizza herbs. Small children will discover why rabbits like vegetables and will create a Peter Rabbit garden stake to put in their gardens at home. All ages will be able to taste the samplings in the gardens. Also featured are: a garden scavenger hunt; story time; farm animals and a book sale sponsored by Fortner Books. I'll be there all day too and I'll be reading to the kids. Come on out, don't miss the experience and inspirations of this incredible garden.

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Gifts of the Garden Tour in South Kitsap on June 21 and 22 sponsored by the Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority. Call KCCHA 360-535-6153 for tickets priced at a very affordable fifteen dollars. Tickets can also be purchased the day of the tour starting at Cedar Springs Pavilion by the Lakes, 7354 Bethel Burley Road SE, Port Orchard.

Bainbridge in Bloom tickets sell out fast so order ASAP. Contact the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council at 206-842-7901 or visit the website at www.gardentour.info. Patrons Preview is Friday July 11. The tour is Saturday and Sunday July 12 and 13. Tour tickets are thirty dollars.