

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 8-20-03 What's Up and Bremerton Patriot) , ©2005

It's that time of year where announcements abound with no unifying theme. For the "Scoop on Poop" Kitsap County's Stormwater Education Consortium created a brochure and educational materials to help homeowners (and gardeners) deal with the issue of pet waste. Dogs in Kitsap County actually produce "11,000 pounds of waste every day – over five tons each day." According to the brochure "Each of the 15,000 dogs in our county drops three-fourths pound of waste per day." You can help prevent the waste from finding its way into our stormwater system and ultimately into our lakes and streams. Contact Pat Kirschbaum at 360-337-5777 for a copy of the brochure "Pet Waste is Natural, But..." You can do your part by double bagging dog waste and placing it in your trashcan. If your house is on a public sewer you can flush dog waste down the toilet. Never dispose of dog waste in your toilet if you have a septic system. If your animals are even larger like cattle or horses then the Conservation District can help you manage your manure. Call Carla Pizzano at the Conservation District at 360-337-7171 for information.

On a much "cleaner" but still eco-friendly note Stillwaters in Kingston is sponsoring an informational evening on Monday August 25 at 7 p.m. to discuss Northwest Earth Institute course offerings. NWEI area representative Helen Kolff from Port Townsend will be at Stillwaters to lead the discussion. The cost for the evening is twenty-five dollars (fifteen for the course book and ten to help Stillwaters defray the cost of putting on the informational evening). Attendees will have the opportunity to register for the seven to eight week course. Contact Stillwaters at 360-297-2876 or via email at SwatersEEC@cs.com to reserve a place at this informational night or for driving directions. Stillwaters is at 26059 Barber Cut Off Road in Kingston.

Every year Valley Nursery has a not-to-be-missed Fall Harvest Fair and Giant Pumpkin Weigh In. This year's event is Sunday September 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Events for kids include: cup cake walk, balloon artist, face painting, pumpkin fishing game and bean bag toss. The Popp Family has won the pumpkin weigh in the most times of all contestants. There's also a prize for the most unusual pumpkin. Other contest categories include: biggest carrot, heaviest tomato, most cherry tomatoes on one cluster, tallest corn stalk (cut at ground level), tallest sunflower, biggest sunflower head (measured from widest point seed to seed), biggest radish, biggest beet, heaviest potato, heaviest zucchini, biggest bell pepper, longest cucumber. Vegetables entries cannot include the roots or stems. Dirt doesn't count either. Weigh in and measuring can be anytime between August 1 and noon on September 28.

Do you have great recipes for salsa, pumpkin pie and zucchini side dishes or zucchini desserts? Then you'll want to cook something up for the Salsa, pumpkin and zucchini tasting contest in the aforementioned categories. Feel artistic? Bring all your supplies and create a creature using fresh fruits, vegetable and herbs. Skewers are allowed to keep the creatures assembled but no other products are allowed. Valley Nursery employees will vote on the winners. Awards in all categories for the Fall Harvest Fair will begin at 3 p.m. Kettle corn and cider starts at 10 a.m. and is free. For contest regulations and details of all

the events call Valley Nursery at 360-779-3806. Valley Nursery is on Bond Road east of Highway 305.

This is the time of year I become extremely tempted by gardening magazines. I thought you'd like to visit your favorite local bookstore and check out two charming publications I purchased at Liberty Bay Books in Poulsbo this week. "Garden Style's Special Issue on Bulbs" from the editors of "Horticulture" magazine. This issue has everything you'll want to know about purchasing, growing and caring for bulbs year round. An autumn blooming bulb, *Crinum asiaticum*, really tempted me. I'm going to find this bulb to plant next spring. "Gardens West" is a publication out of British Columbia. The July/August 2003 issue has information on Mason Bee houses, alliums, deer, melons, sedums and growing winter vegetables. British Columbia's growing climate is very similar to ours and the articles in this magazine are always interesting and timely, providing another crop of ideas for us Pacific Northwest gardeners.

Send comments or questions to Peg in care of this newspaper or via email at ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us or gardenmentor@yahoo.com