

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for What's Up 8-27-03) (and Bremerton Patriot, Celeste's choice) , ©2005

I can't believe I forgot to remind all you wonderful readers to attend the Kitsap Fair. Hope you made it there. If you didn't you can live vicariously for a few paragraphs through today's column.

Two of my favorite places to visit at the Fair are the Horticulture area in Presidents Hall and the Garden Society entries on the balcony in the Pavilion. WSU Master Gardeners of Kitsap County work countless hours in Presidents Hall beginning with the theme decorations and continuing with take-in day, judging of entries and finally providing horticulture information from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. during each day of the fair's run.

At the same time the Federated Garden Clubs have their members putting in parallel countless hours in the Pavilion. Their displays include houseplants, floral arrangements, artistic endeavors, educational displays and much more. Some categories change from year to year or are added. The volunteers in this area are garden club members from all over Kitsap County and they enjoy answering questions about all the displays and can even hook you up with a garden club in your area. Their mission is education, friendship and fun. While visiting the floral displays I also picked up information about many of the garden societies in Kitsap County. You might want to attend one or more of their meetings to learn more about your special interests and even make a few new friends too.

The Evergreen Bonsai Society meets at Olympic College in the Shop (Room 114) at 7 p.m. the third Friday of every month. Summer months are an exception with meeting location changes and sometimes different days. This August on Friday August 29 the meeting is in the auditorium of the Math Building at O.C. The Evergreen Bonsai Society is a group of people in pursuit of the art form of Bonsai (pronounced "bone-sigh"). The Society has a website under construction and so far their home page is up along with all the newsletters from this year. Visit the site at <http://www.EverGreenBonsaiSociety.com>. The newsletters are beautifully illustrated and feature photos of the activities of the Society. You might even want to attend the Northwest Bonsai Club Association Convention 2003 from September 19 through 21 at the Doubletree Hotel in Bellevue. You can find registration information at <http://psba.8m.com/con2003/index.html>. Society member Bob is happy to take phone calls at 360-871-1658 for more information.

The Peninsula Fuchsia Society is "dedicated to the enjoyment of and to further the culture of fuchsias." They welcome visitors and meet in the dining room at Clearbrook Inn Living Center, 12295 Schold Road in Silverdale at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month. For additional information call 360-692-6632 or 360-779-3020. The last number belongs to Jay Siegel. Kitsap residents drive and walk by his home every year on Torval Canyon Road in Poulsbo to see the hundreds of fuchsias festooning his front garden. Jay can be contacted via email too at jazfuchsias@prodigy.net.

Maybe you'd like to try the Kitsap County Dahlia Society. The Society is "composed of enthusiastic dahlia growers who are eager to assist you and to provide more information about the growing and showing of dahlias." Contact Wanda Novak 360-692-4829; Pat Paulsen 360-698-0123; Bill Jones 360-297-2134 or Steve Lamb 360-598-4581 for meeting date and time. The Society has put out a very helpful pamphlet on how to grow Dahlias.

The Kitsap County Rose Society says, "Roses are for everyone. Come join the fun." Meetings are the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at Claremont East Retirement Center, 2707 Clare Avenue, Bremerton. Meeting topics include: fall and spring planting; seasonal care; pruning; diseases and pest control and rose types. Dues are ten dollars per family per year. For more information call Eric Hunter at 360-377-9917 or Sharon Gakin at 253-857-6789.

You might even want to couple your love of gardening with some art. The Puget Sound Tugboat Tolerers "is affiliated with the National Society of Decorative Painters a non profit group." The group meets at Peace Lutheran Church, 1234 NE Riddle Road in East Bremerton on the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to attend meetings to learn more about this art. Dues are six to twelve dollars per year depending on your age (i.e. over 62 rate is six dollars). Call Carolyn at 360-692-9923 or LaRene at 360-876-3803 or 253-857-4426 for more information. The website is <http://tugboattolers.com>.