

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 11-12-03) , ©2005

Even though the weather's been nippy and/or rainy there are still gardening activities galore in November.

Tomorrow, Thursday November 13, don't miss Ed Hume and me at Barnes & Noble in Silverdale at 7 p.m. He'll be signing and talking about his book "Gardening with Ed Hume" and I'll be there talking houseplants.

On Saturday November 15 the WSU Kitsap Master Gardeners are presenting a free seminar on winterizing your garden at 1 p.m. at Anna Smith Garden in Tracyton. Master Gardener Kim Schleis will show you examples of cover crops, give lots of tips and answer questions. The parking lot for the event is at the corner of Fairgrounds Road and Tracyton Boulevard. Dress warmly. Free hot chocolate is provided to keep you warm.

Bainbridge Gardens' Holiday Open House is Saturday November 15 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. That same day you can take a class for five dollars on "Winterize the Garden" presented by Ann Lovejoy, Steve Minch and Tim Knapp. Pre-register for the class by calling 206-842-5888. You might also want to sign up for "Holiday Light Crafting" with Tim Knapp on Wednesday December 3 at 1 p.m. or Sunday December 7 at 1 p.m. The class fee of five dollars does not include materials. Call the nursery for a materials list.

Both Bainbridge Gardens and Valley Nursery offer use of their wreath makers. Bainbridge Gardens says bring pruners and gloves and your own greens too if you desire. The nursery also sells greens and other wreath supplies. Reservations are free but necessary and available dates are November 30 and December 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Valley Nursery's wreath making machines are available after Thanksgiving but classes are needed first to use the equipment. Class dates are Fridays November 21, 28 and December 5; Saturdays November 22, 29 and December 6 and Sundays November 23, 30 and December 7. The websites for Bainbridge Gardens and Valley Nursery are: [www.bainbridgegardens.com](http://www.bainbridgegardens.com) and [www.valleynurseryinc.com](http://www.valleynurseryinc.com).

Stillwaters Environmental Education Center in Kingston at 26059 Barber Cut Off Road is having a Used Book Sale on Friday through Sunday, November 21-23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. About 6,000 books, new and used, from ten cents to one dollar with many new donations since the last sale. Stock up for the dreary winter or start your holiday gift shopping! Hot cider, good music and a cozy wood fire all make your shopping pleasantly relaxed. "Bag day" on Sunday. All proceeds will support environmental education for the schools and the community. For more information please contact 360-297-2876 or [SwatersEEC@cs.com](mailto:SwatersEEC@cs.com).

You might want to try making your own wreath at home. Purchase a wire frame at a local craft store or nursery. Or make your own frame by making two circles (one a few inches smaller than the other) out of coat hangers. Make one frame 12 to 14 inches in diameter

and the other 8 to 10 inches in diameter. Attach one frame inside the other using wire in about four places.

The only other materials required are florist wire, wire ribbon and foliage from your garden. Try fir, spruce, pine, cedar, hemlock, ivy, hydrangea, rhododendron, salal, lavender, camellia, artemesia, viburnum, pyracantha, and huckleberry (both deciduous and evergreen). Also include seedpods and dried flowers. You'll need handheld pruners for trimming the foliage and clipping wires.

Begin by gathering up a small bundle of vegetation. Using clippers trim each bundle to about six to eight inches long. A bundle could be: two cedar, one spruce, one viburnum and one ivy sprig. Use wire to wrap the bundle tightly together. Place the first bundle on the wire frame and wrap wire around the whole bundle and frame four to six times.

Continue making bundles overlapping each one as you continue around the wreath form. Vegetation will cover up the wire as you work around the form until you come back to where you began. Don't be discouraged with your first bundle or even the second or third. I had to start over several times with my first wreath. Don't forget to include bits of seedpods and dried flowers from your garden. Your completed wreath will be quite large.

To make a bow wrap ribbon into three or four loops (each inside the other). Fold these loops flat. Bend the flattened loop in half and snip a small slice into each opposite edge. Use a piece of wire and wrap several times at the bend area. Cut another length of ribbon several feet long tying it around the bent loop. Wire the bow to your wreath. Now unfold and fluff up all the loops. Viola' you're done.

*Contact Peg in care of this newspaper or via email at [gardenmentor@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenmentor@yahoo.com) or [ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us)*