

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 01-21-04 – Activities Galore) , ©2005

I hope you've purchased your Northwest Flower and Garden Show tickets. Many of our luminaries from Kitsap County will be speaking, exhibiting and working at the show. You'll find Bess Bronstein, Dan Hinkley, Ann Lovejoy, Jan Bahr and many other Kitsapers there as speakers. Nils Sundquist has his wonderful plants for sale, Elandan Gardens has created another of their outstanding display gardens and I'll be at both the WSNLA booth and the PAR (Plant A Row) display garden on Thursday. Come on over to Seattle and see all of us and many more of our Kitsap folks (including members of the Kitsap County Garden Clubs in the Flower Arranging area). Local nurseries have tickets and you can purchase them online at [www.gardenshow.com](http://www.gardenshow.com).

In the past years it's been agony waiting in line to hear Dan, Bess, Ann and their colleagues. This year the show will give out numbers and you'll be admitted to the speakers according to your numbers. That way instead of standing with your back up against a wall for one hour you can enjoy the show for forty-five minutes to an hour and not lose your opportunity to hear the speaker.

Deb Howard for the Kitsap County Consolidated Authority asked me to get the word out about their 2004 Gifts of the Garden Tour (funding the Carrie Ogden Memorial Scholarship) which raises much needed scholarship funds for disadvantaged youth. Deb and her committee are looking for outstanding gardens in South Kitsap. The gardens will be showcased from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday June 19-20. If you have a garden or a friend with a garden you think would be great for the tour please contact Deb Howard at 360-535-6151.

Val Koehler from Kitsap's Stream Team asked me to put the word out about this worthy series of workshops across the Hood Canal Bridge, but worth the drive, sponsored by the Port Townsend Marine Science Center. The series is the following Saturdays: February 14 and 21, March 6, April 10 and April 24. The workshops are free but participants are asked to pay a twenty dollar refundable deposit for each workshop. Topics covered are: Forage Fish Biology and Life Cycles; Shellfish and the Nearshore Environment; Nearshore Oceanography and Ecology; Nearshore Habitats and Food Webs; and Science and Stewardship. As gardeners the sea life that surrounds us is impacted by all we do. To register for any of these workshops go to [www.ptmsc.org](http://www.ptmsc.org), click on Education and then on Forage Fish/Nearshore Ecology Workshops. You can also call 360-385-5582 or email [info@ptmsc.org](mailto:info@ptmsc.org). The 2003 workshops filled almost immediately so don't delay if this sounds interesting to you.

If you want to grow small fruits, berries or Kiwis or if you're already growing them and want to know how to prune them, you'll want to attend a demonstration at Anna Smith Garden in Tracyton (intersection of Fairgrounds and Tracyton Boulevard). The demonstration put on by WSU Master Gardeners and the Peninsula Fruit Club will show you how to prune kiwis, berries and other small fruits. The date is Sunday February 1

from 1-3 p.m. For information contact the Extension Office at 360-337-7157. The Extension Office also has several pruning publications available for sale.

On Saturday February 21 M.J. Tyler, WSU Kitsap Master Gardener and Gesneriad expert, will be showing her slides and telling us all about how to raise these beautiful houseplants. She'll show many rare varieties to us too. M.J. is appearing at Barnes and Noble with Marty Wingate who will be signing copies of her new book and giving her own talk to attendees. This series begins at 1 p.m.

If you've always wanted to learn about a garden club and at the same time get great ideas for water gardening then you'll want to visit the Poulsbo Garden Club meeting at the Poulsbo Library on Saturday Valentine's Day February 14 at 10 a.m. The garden club welcomes visitors. Jan's slides are tempting and inspiring as is her talk. I've attended her talks four times already and I never tire of the information she gives us gardeners.

Keep watching for those charcoal gray and dusky brown Styrofoam-looking tent caterpillar egg masses wrapped around twigs and stems while you're out in your garden. The more you peel off your plants now the less caterpillars you'll have this spring. I've been taking an informal survey and so far more than half of us think the problem will wane this year. I'm in the group thinking the worst is over. But only time will tell.

*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)*