

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 02-04-03) PAR and P-Patches, ©2005

Don't forget, this week is the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. Come tell me hello at the Garden Writers Association Plant A Row (PAR) show garden on Thursday from 2-4 p.m. Nils Sundquist's plants are at Show Booth 2455. Actually many gardeners from Kitsap County will be there either selling their plants and art or speaking to groups. Evenings are a great time to attend and on Sundays many of the plants and temptations are sold at reduced rates.

Plant A Row encourages gardeners to plant extra rows of vegetables to donate to local foodbanks. The following plants store well and are easy to grow here in the Pacific Northwest: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cucumber, kale, leek, onions, parsnips, potatoes, pumpkins, radish, rutabaga, squash and turnips. When you plan your garden this year try to incorporate some of these plants. (Notice there was no zucchini listed – foodbanks sometimes get overrun with perishable produce and will appreciate the more storage friendly and long lasting vegetables listed above.)

The Kitsap Community Garden Foundation is planning a new P-Patch endeavor in South Kitsap. Howe Farm at Long Lake Road and Mile Hill is a Kitsap County Park. The Howe Farm Steering Committee has been meeting and planning for nearly three years. One of the first stages in the development of this park is a P-Patch Garden, Youth Garden and WSU Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens. If you'd like to be a part of this planning process please contact me at 360-337-7224 or attend a meeting at the Extension Office at 715 Division Street in Port Orchard from 4-6 p.m. on Thursday February 19. Current KCGF President Ann Pyles would love more volunteers for the Kitsap Community Garden Foundation and membership dues for a year are twenty dollars. Call Ann at 360-598-1944 for more information about the KCGF. The website is [www.kitsapgardens.org](http://www.kitsapgardens.org).

If you'd like to lease a P-Patch in Kitsap County contact City of Bremerton Parks and Rec to lease a P-Patch plot at Blueberry Park on Sylvan Way near Pine Road. The Raab Park P-Patch Plots are being leased through City of Poulsbo Parks and Rec at 360-779-9898. Plots are \$25 for a 10 x 10 foot plot and \$35 for a 10 x 20 foot plot. Bainbridge Island P-Patches are at Battle Point Park. Contact the City Parks and Rec for leasing details.

BUGS (Bremerton Urban Garden Society) is going through the process of becoming a 501C3 so they can start accepting charitable donations. In the meantime these dedicated gardeners are planting vegetable gardens all over Bremerton, one garden at a time. Last year they partnered with Bremerton Foodline to construct and plant up raised gardens soon filled to the brim with vegetables for the hungry who visited Foodline. This spring BUGS volunteers will build four vegetable gardens at private residences. They want to help people of limited means, senior citizens and people with physical limitations. They'll even build a vegetable garden for folks who want to contribute to their 501C3 when it becomes established. BUGS will meet quarterly and the public is encouraged to attend and help plan gardening activities throughout Bremerton. For more information

please contact Carolee Valentine at 360-405-6423. BUGS website will be up and running soon at [www.bugskitsap.org](http://www.bugskitsap.org).

In July Kitsap residents will be able to shop for produce and products at the new Poulsbo Farmers Market near Poulsbo Village. The Poulsbo Farmers Market group meets every second and fourth Monday at 7 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church on Fourth Street in Poulsbo. The Poulsbo Farmers Market is looking for vendors and farmers. For more information contact Ann Pyles at 360-598-1944. The website is [www.poulsbofarmersmarket.org](http://www.poulsbofarmersmarket.org) and email is [info@poulsbofarmersmarket.org](mailto:info@poulsbofarmersmarket.org).

The Master Gardener Foundation of Kitsap County is sponsoring a speakers series for gardening in the Pacific Northwest. Tickets are currently available at Valley Nursery and Port Orchard Nursery and DeLona Kent can be contacted at 360-871-0208. The four-speaker series is available for \$40. Marianne Binetti speaks from 1-3 pm. at the Red Lion in Silverdale on “Easy Answers for Great Gardeners.” Dan Hinkley speaks on “Foliage in the Garden: Trees, Shrubs, Vines, Perennials and Annuals with Distinctive Foliage Interest” from 1-3 p.m. on June 19 at the Red Lion in Silverdale. Ann Lovejoy’s talk “Sustainable Design and Natural Care” is August 22 from 1-3 p.m. at Mary Mac’s in Port Orchard. Mary Robson is featured on October 2 from 1-3 p.m. also at Mary Mac’s. You won’t want to miss this exciting series featuring stellar local garden gurus.

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