

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 4-21-04) EcoFest, MGs and much much more, ©2005

The end of April and beginning of May promise many activities and opportunities from one end of the county to the other. I hope you'll find something in today's column to attend and enrich your family and/or gardening life.

April 24 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Northwest corner of Ace Hardware Parking Lot on High School Road don't miss the Bainbridge Island Garden Club's 26th Annual Plant Sale. That same day at Ace Hardware you'll find the WSU Master Gardener information and diagnostic clinic from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Master Gardeners on Bainbridge Island can be found at Winslow Hardware and Mercantile on Winslow Way on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and their new Saturday home is now at Ace Hardware on High School Road. The Ace location is instead of the Bainbridge Farmers Market where the MGs have been on Saturdays in past years.

Also on April 24 journey over to Stillwaters at 26059 Barber Cut Off Road for EcoFest from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. As part of the event the Kingston Farmers Market is at Gordon Elementary from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can go to the Farmer's Market, leave your car in the ample parking lot and hop on the hay wagon shuttle to Stillwaters. EcoFest is a free event with a host of activities and information to help us all walk lightly on the earth. You can check out three hybrid earth-friendly cars on display. WSU Master Gardeners will be at both the Farmers Market and at Stillwaters with gardening tips and advice. Kitsap Public Works will have composting ideas. The Suquamish Tribe will have their salmon tank and Kitsap County Stream Team and the PUD will also have displays and tips to protect our environment. Many more groups will be available for resource and information and the Haidalaas, twenty-four Haida dancers with drummers, will dance for one hour starting at 2 p.m. Families are invited to create a "local wildlife costume" and join the "Wild in the Watershed Species Parade" at 1 p.m. Prizes will be awarded in numerous categories. Each year Stillwaters debuts a new costume. So far there's a salmon and a bald eagle. No one knows what this year will bring. For more information call 360-297-2876 or Naomi@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org.

April 23 Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday April 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the South Kitsap Republican Women's Club invites you to their plant and rummage sale at the American Legion Hall in Port Orchard on Kendal in Port Orchard. Snacks are hosted by Celebrate Life and spaces are still available to rent by contacting 360-876-1101. Each year the club uses the proceeds of the sale to fund a bi-yearly \$750 scholarship to South Kitsap High School for continuing education.

April 24 is the Cross Sound District Garden Clubs' gardening extravaganza with vendors, demonstrations and educational displays at the Westside Improvement Club on National Avenue in West Bremerton. Marianne Binetti is the featured speaker and admission to the show is ten dollars. For more information contact Rebecca Guthrie at 360-871-8198.

On Sunday April 25 from 1-3 p.m. learn how to divide perennials from the WSU Master Gardeners at Northwest College of Arts Garden on Highway 305. The entrance to the College is across from the George Fireworks Stand. Everyone attending the free class will be able to take perennials home.

Saturday May 1 attend the Kitsap Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society annual Flower Show and Sale from 1-6 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday May 2 at Bainbridge Commons at Waterfront Park. The building is on Bjune Drive behind Town and Country Market. For any questions contact Cris at 206-780-0988. Experts will be on hand to answer all your questions about rhododendrons.

Also on May 1 you'll want to go to Café Destino at 1223 McKenzie Avenue near Evergreen Park in Bremerton for an all day event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You'll find informational booths, vendors, speakers and demonstrations. WSU Master Gardener Kim Schleis will tell you how to grow and select vegetables for many types of cuisines. Master Composters will be on hand to demonstrate and give tips on composting and worm bins. WSU Master Gardeners will answer your gardening questions and dilemmas. You can also learn about BUGS (Bremerton Urban Garden Society), KCGF (Kitsap Community Garden Foundation) and PAR (Plant A Row). You won't want to miss this great event. For more details contact Café Destino at 360-782-0711 or the Extension Office at 360-337-7157.

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