

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 2-23-05) Snippets © 2005

Today's column is full of announcements and a few snippets of information. Get out your calendars and let's get rolling.

Sunday, February 27, from 1-3 p.m. at the Red Lion in Silverdale attend the first installment in the Master Gardener Foundation of Kitsap County Speakers Series. Admission is \$12. Chris Smith and I are the featured speakers for the day. Chris will talk about his extreme specialty, growing vegetables. Bring your pens and paper because he's going to tell you his favorite picks for this gardening season. I'll tell you how to attract butterflies, nature's flying jewels.

Saturday, March 3, don't miss the Soroptimist International of Greater North Kitsap's "10th Annual Garden, Craft and Food Show." Soroptimists have expanded the show and it promises to be the best one yet. It's at the Kitsap Fairgrounds President's Hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (these are extended hours from past shows). Admission is \$3 per person, children under 12 are free. You'll find over 60 vendors offering among other things: plants, watercolor art, bird feeders, ironwork, garden art, local gourmet food items and much, much more. Food court items include: coffees, beverages, sandwiches, salads, crepes, baked goods and even funnel cakes. Visit the Henna tattoo artist, B& D Nursery for their famous lilies, Olympic Lavender Farm and Sequim Bay Company with local gourmet food items. WSU Master Gardeners will be there to answer your gardening questions and provide useful horticulture information.

Speaker coordinator Janet Brookes has lined up eight demonstrations throughout the day offering a plethora of fun ideas. I'm the first on stage at 9:30 with Butterfly Gardening; 10:15 is Scrapbooking from Michael's; 11:00 Cathy Gunderson, will teach us how to easily do Cake Decorating; 11:45 The Potting Sisters offer container gardening tips; 12:30 Scott's Tree Service – Pruning Demonstration outside the building; also at 12:30 is a chef from the Sub Base with a gourmet cooking demonstration; 1:15 Jewelry Demonstration from Michael's; 2:00 Sandy Hardisty of Lilliputs (How to Create a Moss Hanging Basket); and 2:45 the chef from Liberty Shores with a demonstration on Tantalizing Cold Salads. You'll be able to go home and create some of your own works of art or a tantalizing feast for the eyes or senses.

The Potting Sisters live in Kingston and were featured in "Sunset Magazine" last year. Their forte is custom container designs. Janet says, "The Potting Sisters 'interior design' the pots, meaning the ability to color coordinate containers and plants which is often challenging for some of us. Sandy Hardisty of Lilliputs specializes in seasonal wreaths, garden design and consulting. She'll teach us the tricks of creating one of those beautiful moss hanging baskets."

Every cent of the proceeds from the show is distributed in Kitsap County. This year the money will go to the food banks in Central Kitsap and North Kitsap and to women and children's programs. There are only about ten members in Soroptimist International of

Greater North Kitsap and they've contributed thousands of dollars each year to worthy groups in Central and North Kitsap.

Peninsula Fruit Club's Spring Grafting Show is Saturday March 5 at Country Nursery and Gardens on Seabeck Highway Northwest from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fruit Club members will be there to teach you how to graft your own fruit trees. Root stock and scion will be for sale. Root stock is apple, pear and plum and they'll have antique scion wood and other scion wood. Peninsula Fruit Club members have a wealth of information they're always eager and willing to share. They're one of our best resources for help growing fruit in Kitsap County.

The Master Gardener Foundation of Kitsap County coordinates and sponsors a free third Wednesday seminar every month at the Norm Dicks Government Center in the Fourth Floor WSU Extension Classroom. The seminars are from 1-3 p.m. February's speaker was Jody Holdcroft from the Kitsap Health District with the topic of septic systems and landscaping. Jody asked me to tell you she will send you a printout of your septic plan if you contact her. You did not have to attend the class to receive this service. Call the Health District at 360-337-5235 to reach Jody. You can also call the Extension Office at 360-337-7157 and we'll mail you a list of plants for your septic system and drain field along with information from Jody's talk on septic systems.

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