

Sometimes we gardeners detour from our plant obsessions over to temptations of the artistic variety. The recent Soroptimists Garden Show at the Fairgrounds was replete with temptations.

Sandy Hardisty demonstrated how to make hanging moss baskets. Her company is called Lilliputs (Creating from the Heart). Sandy sells her amply beautiful and appealing moss baskets on Tuesdays at the Silverdale Farmer's Market. She also takes special orders for individual needs for decorative baskets and topiaries.

Rachel Schmidt and Jennifer Steele's business Paco and Rosebud's featured wonderful wearable and utilitarian beaded art. You'll find them at the Port Orchard Farmer's Market every Saturday. Their craft started as a way to raise money to purchase pigmy goats. Jennifer calls it the "goat fund." She's selected the names Paco and Rosebud for her first two goats. "I have to buy some property that allows goats first though," she said. In her spare time Jennifer is a firefighter. Alas, I was interrupted and never got back to the booth to find out what Rachel does when she's not creating. Sorry Rachel.

Gail Coupal of Hot Flashes creates art by fusing glass. Her art would sparkle in a garden, home or office. The colors she uses represent every shade imaginable. Some of her designs looked as if they had bits of seaweed and minute trees imbedded between the fused glass. Gail achieves these extremely intricate mini plant skeletons and shadows by cutting out copper with an exacto knife. She listens to books on tape while working. The designs are fused at 1400 degrees in a kiln. You can find her at the Port Gamble Sunday Market. I know I'm going to track her down for one of her incredible sun catchers.

If you've never met Randy and Debbie Raub of Randy's Nursery you'll want to visit them among their plants at the nursery in Burley. They specialize in native plants. They can be reached at 360-895-4307 for an appointment. Everyone at the show was buying a purple-bronze epimedium for his or her garden that day. They also sell plants that will grow happily among the natives. Many of us were especially tempted by quince; one variety with white flowers and another with peach flowers rather than the usual coral pink.

Alyssa Miller of Alyssa Miller Art Glass is also at the Port Gamble Farmers Market. She takes tubes of colored glass, heats them up and shapes jewelry and small bugs (lady bugs, bees, butterflies) and flowers attached to wire for decorating flower pots and bouquets. She also paints with glass on the surface of glass containers and jars. You can contact her at [BudGoddessGlass@aol.com](mailto:BudGoddessGlass@aol.com) or check out her E-bay store Green Star Glass.

Sam Agnew of Sam's Workshop was there. If you've never seen Sam's "Custom Woodworking" you've been missing a real treat. You'll find him at many garden shows throughout the year. His benches, potting tables, gates, tool caddies and wooden creations

would enhance any garden. He recycles aged wood. Sam does custom work and can be reached at [samsworkshop@wavecable.com](mailto:samsworkshop@wavecable.com) or 360-769-2742. I have my eye on a gate.

You'll be able to catch these artisans at our local farmers markets and plant sales this spring and summer.

Last week I forgot to say the time and location for Historic Trees (Olaf Ribeiro's talk at Island Center) 4 p.m. on Sunday March 20.

Everyone's been asking about the Yard Gloves. They are now being sold at Clear Creek Nursery and Bainbridge Gardens and will soon be at Valley Nursery. At Clear Creek you'll find the four-ounce container at \$11.95.

Master Gardener Speakers and times for the Homebuilders Home and Garden Show March 18, 19 and 20 are: Friday evening 6-7 p.m. Composting and 7-8 p.m. Vermicomposting with Becky Croston; Saturday evening 6-7 p.m. Plant A Row with Sandy Bochonok and 7-8 p.m. Salmon Friendly Landscaping with Domoni Glass; and Sunday 3-4 p.m. Plant a Row with Sandy Bochonok and 4-5 p.m. Herbs with Sally Tysver.

The Dahlia Society wanted me to pass the word about their upcoming dahlia tuber sale. You'll find them at Central Valley Community Hall, 10200 Central Valley Road, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on April 2 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 3. The following week they're at the South Kitsap Mall on April 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and April 10 from noon to 5 p.m.

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