

To kick off Earth Day Week the Governor has declared the week of April 17 through 23 Master Gardener Week. Congratulations to the 250 WSU Master Gardeners who contributed more than 17,000 hours of horticulture service and educational outreach to more than 35,000 citizens of Kitsap County. Special congratulations are also in order for the following Master Gardener Interns who have completed 72 hours of instruction and will be giving back more than 50 hours each in the next five months.

James Allen, Kay Austin, Nancy Bale, Judith Bardsley, Christine Besch, Donna Brookfield, Mandy Cobb, Cheryl Craig, Becky Croston, Arnie Doppler, Gail Everett, Deb Fenwick, Jane Freeman, Bill Gaylord, Patricia Grimes, Donna Hamilton, Walt Harper, Susan Harrington, Evelena Haynes, Bernie Henzi, Anne Marie Hong, Elizabeth Huddle, Gail Humpston, Carol Johnson, Kay Kauffman, Ann Kelly, Adrienne Kemmish, Joanne Little, Sandy Livermore, Annie Madden, Mary Manning, Val Martinson, Susan Moore, Jim Mossman, Liz Murray, Mary Neyhart, Susan Putaansuu, Ron Reynolds, Barb Rudolph, Tess Smith, Rose-Marie Stacy, Sandy Straw, Kaye Strong, T.R. Strong, Lynn Sutherland, DoreenTetrault, Barbara Thomas, Joe Travers, Joanne Vallely and Colette Wilson.

You'll find these Master Gardener Interns and the seasoned Master Gardeners at the following locations to answer your gardening questions and help solve horticulture dilemmas: Port Orchard Farmers Market (Saturday), Poulsbo Farmers Market (Wednesday and Saturday), Kingston Farmers Market (Saturday), Bainbridge Farmers Market (every other Saturday starting April 23), Bainbridge Island Ace Hardware (Thursday), Port Orchard Nursery (Saturday), Port Orchard Fred Meyer (Saturday), Home Depot Silverdale, Walmart Bremerton, Lowes Bremerton and the Extension Office at 345 Sixth Street in Bremerton (Monday through Friday); and every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon during the gardening season at the Anna Smith Learning Garden near the intersection of Fairgrounds Road and Tracyton Boulevard.

Attend free seminars on various gardening topics on the first Sunday of each month from April through September at the Anna Smith Garden from 1-3 p.m. The Master Gardener Foundation organizes free seminars the third Wednesday of each month on the Fourth Floor of the Norm Dicks Government Center, 345 Sixth Street in Bremerton.

Master Gardeners and community volunteers at the Raab Park Youth Garden in Poulsbo offer free gardening activities for kids and their accompanying adults from June 27 through August 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is no activity on July 4. Dress for the garden, wear sunblock and bring a sack lunch and beverage. For a complete schedule contact the Extension Office at 337-7157, Poulsbo Parks at 779-4464, or stop at Raab Park and pick one up from the mailbox at the Youth Garden. You can even stop by on Thursdays this spring from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. when Master Gardeners are there getting ready for the kids.

In addition the Master Gardeners volunteer in educational outreach and horticulture assistance at: Martha and Mary Care Center, Stillwaters, Retsil Cemetery and Veterans Home, Port Orchard Visitors Center, Guillemot Cove, Anderson Landing, Fish Park, Howe Farm and formerly created and maintained gardens at Northwest College of Arts, Givens Center and Helpline House. The MGs also volunteer as Weed Advisors, Master Composters, Native Plant Specialists and 4H Leaders and Advisors. Last but not least they give talks on various horticulture topics all over the county.

Thank you WSU Kitsap Master Gardeners. You each make my job the best job in Kitsap County. Happy Earth Day Week.

Contact Peg in care of this newspaper or email ptillery@co.kitsap.wa.us or gardenmentor@yahoo.com