

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 12-07-05) Winter Gifts for Gardeners © 2005

Are you looking for a few more holiday gifts to give that favorite gardener in your life? Well, you're in luck because today's column has a few ideas.

In the winter months when we yearn for spring and summer, it's the perfect time to attend a gardening speaker series. The Master Gardener Foundation of Kitsap County 2006 Speaker Series begins February 19. Tickets on sale now are \$12 per speaker or \$35 for the complete series. All talks are on Sunday from 1-3 p.m. at the Norm Dicks Government Center at 345 Sixth Street in Bremerton. Plenty of free parking is on Sixth Street on the East side of the building. February 19 is Cass Turnbull "Difficult Plants to Prune;" February 26 is Debra Prinzing "Abundant Gardening;" March 5 is Linda Beutler "Clematis with Everything;" March 12 is Bill McClaren "Delightful Dahlias;" and March 19 is Ed Hume "Wide Row Raised Bed Growing."

Cass Turnbull founded Plant Amnesty and is the author of "Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning." Debra Prinzing is a Northwest author of several gardening books and magazine articles. Linda Beutler is a national lecturer and published writer. Bill McClaren has specialized in Dahlias for fifty years and was key in establishing the Dahlia Research Program at WSU. Ed Hume celebrated 40 years as a gardening personality in 2005; his weekly program is the longest running gardening television show in North America. You absolutely won't want to miss any of these speakers and their topics. Tickets are available during business hours at Liberty Bay Books in Poulsbo, Port Orchard Nursery and Bethel Avenue Book Store in Port Orchard and at the WSU Extension Office, Suite 550 of the Norm Dicks Government Center (M-F 8:30-11:30 and 12:30-4:00).

Gift certificates from local nurseries are always welcome. Also, local nurseries are placing their orders now for spring plants. Many of the nurseries have rose lists for you to choose from. You may also have a favorite tree or shrub you've been yearning to have. Check with your favorite nursery person to find out how to pre-order plants. Also ask them what they think is going to be hot for 2006.

Our own "WestSound Home & Garden" magazine subscription is \$11 for one year (4 issues) or \$18 for two years (8 issues). Subscribe at www.wshomeandgarden.com or mail WestSound Home & Garden, 321 Tremont Street, Port Orchard WA 98366. You can also call 360-876-7900 to subscribe. The second issue comes out this month.

Visit your favorite local bookstore to find a plethora of gardening books. Books published by Timber Press, Lone Pine and Timber Press are especially good choices. If you just can't decide which book would work for your favorite gardener, purchase a gift certificate from the bookstore.

Tickets to the Northwest Flower and Garden Show are always a hit. Tickets are available locally at many of our local nurseries. The Garden Show website is not updated entirely yet, but you can order tickets online at <http://gardenshow.com>. Dates for the show are February 8-12. This year there's a special "Premium" ticket at \$48 for show admission,

valet parking and one hour early admission into the display gardens. Early bird tickets are \$16, \$19 is regular admission, \$65 covers all days of the show and \$28 is a two-day pass.

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