

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 2-15-06) Let the Garden Season Begin © 2006

March is fast approaching and it signals the official beginning of the gardening season here in Kitsap County. You'll want to spend all day Saturday March 4 at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds.

The Kitsap Conservation District native plant sale (also known as the tree sale) is Friday March 3 from 1-6 p.m. and Saturday March 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Conservation District's plants are pre-ordered but there are always extra plants on hand for purchase both days. The Conservation District also brings in local native plant vendors.

On March 4 the Conservation District's "Doo for You" is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring your trucks and trailers to the NE Fairgrounds entrance on Nels Nelson Road and the Conservation District and Fairgrounds staff will have loaders to place the Doo in your trucks and trailers. This aged, composted manure comes from the Fairgrounds during the fair. It's free and is available until they run out.

Also at the Fairgrounds on March 4 you won't want to miss the Soroptimist International of Greater North Kitsap's 11th Annual Garden, Craft and Food Show. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This show is very affordable at \$3 for adults and children under 12 are free. Proceeds from this event go to local women and children's charities. You'll find garden speakers, Master Gardeners to answer your questions, food demonstrations, crafts, nurseries and a host of other items to take home for your gardening pleasure.

March 17, 18 and 19 you'll want to go back to the Fairgrounds for the annual Homebuilders Home and Garden Show. Make sure you visit the Master Gardeners on the mezzanine level of the Pavilion. You'll also want to stop by the Wet Apple Communication booth to check out the newest issue of "WestSound Home & Garden." Show hours are 2-8 p.m. on Friday March 17, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday March 18 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday March 19. You can find everything at the show including home building supplies, demonstrations and information, plus locate a garden designer, landscaper or even buy plants from local nurseries. Don't miss this great event that keeps getting better and better each year.

Marianne Binetti is at Clear Creek Nursery, Clear Creek Road, Silverdale on Sunday March 19 from 1-3 p.m. talking about "Perennial Partners."

If you can't wait until March, stop by Country Nursery and Gardens on the Seabeck Highway for a pruning demonstration by Joseph Machcinski at 10 a.m. on Saturday February 18.

The Master Gardener Foundation sponsored speaker series begins Sunday February 19 from 1-3 p.m. at the Norm Dicks Government Center in Bremerton. Don't miss Cass Turnbull that day speaking on the topic of "Difficult Plants to Prune." Debra Prinzing on Sunday February 26 from 1-3 p.m. will talk about "The Abundant Garden." March 5 from 1-3 p.m. is Linda Buetler, "Clematis With Everything;" March 12 from 1-3 p.m.

Bill McClaren “Dahlia Workshop” and last but not least Ed Hume on March 19 from 1-3 pm. with “Raised Bed Gardening.” Tickets are affordable at \$35 for the series and \$12 per speaker at the door. All proceeds go towards horticulture education programs throughout Kitsap County offered by the WSU Master Gardener Program.

One of our local garden luminaries lives down the road in Gig Harbor. Susan Goetz “The Creative Gardener” has created NW Flower and Garden Show displays for the last three years. For a feast for your eyes and to get you dreaming about summer gardens visit her website at www.thecreativegardener.com. You can also email her at info@thecreativegardener.com to request a newsletter in the mail. She can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 2404, Gig Harbor WA 98335 or 253-265-2209.

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