

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 7-19-06) Venom, Ponds and Dahlias © 2006

If you've always wanted to know more about adding a water feature to your garden there's a series of talks being given at Roadhouse Nursery on Central Valley Road on Sunday July 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Seminars are being given by Olympic Koi Club members. You'll even have a chance to "Adopt a Koi." The day includes free refreshments too. Topics covered are: Think Before You Dig (11:30 a.m.); Basic Pond Construction (12:15 p.m.); Plumbing and Filtration (1 p.m.); Basic Electrical Needs (1:45 p.m.); Koi Identification and Care (2:30 p.m.); and Establishing and Maintaining the Pond's Ecology (3:15 p.m.). Come for all day or a portion of the day.

If you attend the seminars or drop by Roadhouse Nursery during the week you can also purchase very affordable tickets to the Olympic Koi Club Annual Pond Tour coming up on Saturday August 12. Each ticket includes a map and driving directions to several ponds in our area. I try to attend the Annual Pond Tour every year. I love it and so does my husband. Attendees get a chance to see a wide sampling of ponds and water features throughout Kitsap County. Olympic Koi Club members are a wonderful resource for gardeners who want to know more about water gardening. Visit the website at www.olympickoiclub.org.

We've been receiving numerous calls about wasp and yellowjacket nests. This seems, so far, to be a bumper crop year for the paper wasp nests. Local exterminators can take care of the problem for you. Make sure they have a current pesticide applicator's license and are bonded. I was contacted by a man who collects wasp and yellowjacket venom. He's especially looking for the paper nests that are football size or larger. He can be reached at 425-485-0103. He comes over to Kitsap County in his work. You can also reach him via email at venomcollect4free@comcast.net.

The Kitsap County Dahlia Society 82nd Annual Dahlia Show is Saturday and Sunday August 5 and 6 at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds President's Hall. Even if you aren't a member of the Kitsap County Dahlia Society you can enter dahlias in the show. Entry time is 7-9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. The show is open to the public from 1-6 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Members will be there to answer your dahlia questions. Remember to stop by the Silverdale Post Office to check out the Dahlia Society's dahlia display bed. Visit their website at www.kitsapdahlias.org.

Last but not least in today's column I am happy to report that we've just completed filming two episodes of "The Kitsap Gardener" for BKAT. This is a partnership project with BKAT (Bremerton Kitsap Access Television) and WSU Extension Kitsap. A portion of the funding was provided by the Master Gardener Foundation of Kitsap County. Many of the episodes are filmed at local nurseries. Stay tuned because eventually we'll feature your favorite nursery. Master Gardeners and/or WSNLA Certified Professional Horticulturists are featured in each episode. Episode 1 "Lawns" features Country Nursery and Gardens/Rogers Landscaping, Joseph Machcinski (certified landscaper), and TR Strong (Master Gardener). TR's lawn is also featured in the first episode. We just finished filming Episode 2 "Water Gardening" at Roadhouse Nursery with Jan Bahr

(CPH). Episodes will be shown on BKAT and Bainbridge Island Public Access TV. We'll also have video tapes and DVDs available for checkout at our Kitsap Regional Library system and from the Extension Office. Episodes are 30 minutes long. Scheduled showings will be noted on <http://kitsap.wsu.edu> along with information sheets for each episode.

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