

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 10-11-06) Trees & Flickers © 2006

Come to Poulsbo on Saturday October 21 to celebrate Urban Forestry Month. This year's celebration features two events you'll want to attend. City Arborist Kevin McFarland and the Poulsbo Tree Board, including our own county tree expert, Bess Bronstein, are conducting a hands-on class. Attendees will learn the correct way to plant a tree, care for the newly planted tree and can ask questions about trees and tree care. The class is at Nelson Park, 317 NW Lindvig Way in Poulsbo from 9 a.m. to noon. All residents of Kitsap County are invited and welcome. Please call Poulsbo Parks and Recreation to sign up for the class in advance at 779-9898. There is a nominal fee of \$10 per person.

The second event planned for the day, October 21, is a tree planting at American Legion Park in Poulsbo. One of Poulsbo's most treasured residents, Muriel Williams, purchased and donated a "Celebration Tree" to commemorate the many years she and her family spent in American Legion Park. The tree will be planted at 1 p.m. American Legion Park is located on Front Street directly across the street from Martha and Mary Nursing Home. Muriel's ancestors were among Poulsbo's founding pioneers. Her family founded and ran "The North Kitsap Herald," still the longest running newspaper in the area.

On a somewhat spooky yet humorous note befitting the season, let me introduce you, dear readers, to the "Attack Spider." As many of you who've read this column for several years know, we have a resident flicker family especially attached, literally, to our house as their flicker home. Mr. Flicker hammers away at the side of our house, tappity taps on the downspouts, and even drills away at the flashings on the chimney.

Not too long ago, I received a postcard advertising the "Attack Spider." It's a device that hangs from the eaves of homes. When the flicker flies towards a home the motion causes the huge spider to drop down from a cord making a huge noise (in my opinion not unlike the flicker's call). The quick movement and noise of the "Attack Spider" frightens the flickers away to find another home. My husband noticed the company has another device for sale that telescopes to attach the "Attack Spiders" to the eaves and gutters of a home. He ordered and received the telescoping tool already and is going to use it to hang our holiday lights on the house this year, rather than having to perch precariously on a ladder.

Over the last four weekends we've been removing several conifer trees alongside our home. We inherited the trees, topped several times by previous owners. We finally decided, this year, to remove these damaged trees. So far we've seen no sign of the flickers since. But if they return, we're ready to order our "Attack Spiders." Stay tuned for more flicker stories in the future. And, check out the "Attack Spider" and spider hanging tool at www.attackspider.com. For those without computers, please send a self-addressed-stamped envelope to the Extension Office, 345 Sixth Street, Bremerton, WA 98337-1874.

If you'd like to read more about the flickers or any of my past columns log on to http://kitsap.wsu.edu/hort/dig_this_toc.htm