

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 12-06-06) Winter Gardening Classes & Ideas © 2006

Winter's the perfect time to garden indoors. John Rauch (from BKAT) and I just completed filming two 30-minute segments on house plants featuring Sam Rader of Valley Nursery. Catch them on BKAT (Bremerton Kitsap Access Television) during January. One of Sam's favorite topics is plants of all shapes and sizes. He's a CPH (Certified Professional Horticulturist) with extensive knowledge. So extensive we needed to stretch the show into two segments to cover all the plants living inside Valley Nursery's greenhouse. Here's just the short list: ferns, cactus, tillandsia, euphorbias, succulents, sansevieria, begonia, poinsettia, croton, ficus, spider plants, orchids, bromeliads, anthurium and schlumbergera. Show dates aren't assigned yet, in January visit kitsap.wsu.edu or call BKAT at 360-308-0139 for the schedule. DVDs will be available in February for checkout at our local Kitsap Regional Library branches.

During January Valley Nursery staff will provide ways to get our gardening fix indoors. Sam Rader will show us how to create hanging and table top gardens using tillandsia and other easy care plants, including tips on how to keep our holiday cactus growing and blooming. Sylvia Smith will help us get creative with indoor plants in a variety of decorative containers and plantings. Terri Mitchell will give tips and information about how to select the right houseplant for your home. Visit www.valleynurseryinc.com or call 360-779-3806 for class times and dates.

It's not too late to sign up to make great holiday gifts and wreaths. Cyndy Herrick of Over the Top still has classes available by appointment at her wonderfully charming studio at Fernwood on Bainbridge Island. I made a wreath at her magical place in November and it's exquisite, as was the experience. Cyndy has a host of classes to tantalize and entertain. Contact her at hereisoverthetop@comcast.net or phone 206-842-7878 to book an appointment.

The newest edition of "Westsound Home & Garden" magazine is available at bookstores, design centers, nurseries and local magazine outlets throughout Kitsap County. If you can't locate a copy call Wet Apple at 360-876-7900. We're in our second year already and the magazine gets better and better each issue. We couldn't imagine how it could become any better but continues improving with each issue. This issue I stepped outside the garden into my other favorite topic "knitting" with a piece on our local yarn stores. Many gardeners knit too. You'll want to read all about it.

On a totally different note from gardening, my dear friend Sally Santana has a new book out, "An Examined Life." I highly recommend this book even though you may not consider yourself as religious or spiritual. "An Examined Life" is a collection of Sally's columns through the last several years. They are full of love, joy, sometimes sadness and poignancy, and always hope for our humanity and universal unity. This book would make a perfect holiday gift to yourself or to someone you hold dear.

Last but not least Susan Harrington of Labyrinth Hill Lavender in Kingston has created a fun, stimulating and educational six-week online course "Lavender: from Soil to Sachet."

If you've thought you'd like to start your own business or just want to learn more about lavender, I recommend this course at \$75 per person.