

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 12-20-06)
January & February Events for Gardeners © 2006

January and February are fast approaching. These chilly months still abound with things indoors and even a few outdoors for gardeners to experience.

The Great Peninsula Conservancy's Outdoor Activity Program for Winter 2007 is very tempting. January 18 the GPC presents an outdoor activity seen indoors: "Wildlife Photography" with Don Paulson from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This presentation features digital photos of Paulson's outstanding nature images set to music. The evening explores three themes: celebrating water; colors of nature and colors of flowers. Preview Paulson's images at www.donpaulson.com. Call the GPC at 360-373-3500 or toll free 866-373-3504 for the event location and to reserve your space.

January 20 head outdoors for the GPC's "Port Gamble Ramble." It's an easy hike. You'll explore this 4300 acre block of land belonging to Olympic Resource Management. Wildlife abounds and the scenery is lovely. The hike is six to eight miles in length. Reserve a space by calling 360-373-3500 or toll free 866-373-3504.

The Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association (WSNLA) hosts a statewide conference every year for those in the green industry. This year's event is right here in Kitsap County. The "green industry" includes educators, horticulturists, landscape designers, landscapers, nursery owners and staff and a host of others who make their living from plants. The conference location is Clearwater Casino, Hotel and Conference Center in Suquamish from Thursday January 11 through 13.

Saturday January 13 the events are open to the general public as well. You won't want to miss paying the fee of \$20 to hear Tony Avent from Plant Delights Nursery. His talk is "Putting the Fun Back in Gardening." The talk runs from 10 to 10:50 a.m. Tickets are available at the door, but you'll want to reserve your space ahead by calling 800-672-7711. Avent's talks sell out to capacity crowds.

A full WSNLA Conference schedule and costs can be found at wsnla.org or email Breanne@wsnla.org.

Buy your tickets now for the Master Gardener Foundation of Kitsap County's Speakers Series. Featured dates and speakers are: February 18, Richard Brown of the Bloedel Reserve (Plant Names Demystified); February 25, Lorene Forkner of Fremont Gardens (Choosing Plants for Your Garden); March 4, Mary Robson (Northwest Gardening in the Four Seasons); and March 11, Jan Bahr of Roadhouse Nursery (Herons, Mosquitoes and Green Water – Oh My!). All talks are at the Silverdale Beach Hotel from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are available at the WSU Extension Office, 345 6th Street, Suite 550 in Bremerton; Liberty Bay Books in Poulsbo; Valley Nursery in Poulsbo; Port Orchard Nursery; Bethel Avenue Bookstore in Port Orchard; Bremerton City Nursery on Adele in Bremerton; and Bainbridge Gardens. Tickets are also available at the door. Costs is \$12 per speaker or \$35 for the series.

Last but not least, don't forget the Northwest Flower and Garden Show February 14 through 18 at the Convention Center at 7th and Pike in Seattle. Tickets are available at many of our local nurseries, online and even at the Convention Center. Early birds get reduced rates though. Visit www.gardenshow.com or call 800-569-2832 for details and to reserve your tickets now.