

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 03-07-07) Spring Musings – Home Shows Galore © 2007

I write my column a week or two ahead of time and at present we have two inches of icy snow piling up on our deck and the rest of the garden. Aren't you sick of this winter weather? I certainly am. It's been too yucky out to meander around the garden. We've managed to do a bit of gardening, mostly weeding, pruning and tidying, in between gusts, rain and snow flurries. But usually we get too cold too fast and head indoors.

Well, enough of that. What do gardeners do when it's too inhospitable outside and we've already dog-eared all our catalogues and are either receiving or waiting to receive our seed and plant orders? The answer is – head out to our two local Home and Garden Shows. If you missed the Soroptimist's Garden Show never fear.

First on deck is the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce Home & Garden Show on Saturday and Sunday March 10 and 11. This year our much loved Dan Hinkley headlines the show on Sunday at 1 p.m. Home & Garden Show hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Woodward Middle School, 9125 Sportsman Club Road. You'll find exhibits, demonstrations, drawings and presentations by local and regional gardening, home building and home improvement experts. This is the fourth year of the show. Admission is only \$3. Youth 12 and under are admitted free.

Hinkley is speaking at 1 p.m. on Sunday March 11 on "New and Exciting Perennials, Shrubs, Vines and Trees for American Gardens." Another highlight of the show is the "Antiques Roadshow" feature. Kathleen Victor and Dan Jensen, both certified appraisers, will analyze household antiques and family heirlooms as part of their two-day-long special feature. Participants will receive a verbal approximation of the item's value.

Other luminaries featured during the show are: Little and Lewis; Terry Moyemont and Terri Stanley of Mesogeo; regional author and columnist Marianne Binetti; and Ann Lovejoy along with Bethany Shippen. Also featured are representatives from Environmental Home Center in Seattle with tips of green and eco-friendly building. Local designer Molly McCabe of "A Kitchen that Works" will have tips and ideas too.

For a complete schedule and additional information contact Kevin Dwyer at the Bainbridge Chamber, dwyer@bainbridgechamber.com or 206-842-3700.

Another not-to-be-missed indoor event is the Home & Garden Show "Where Ideas Build & Grow" at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds on Fairgrounds Road. You'll find ample parking. The show runs Friday March 16 from 2 to 8 p.m.; Saturday March 17 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday March 18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults; admission for seniors, teens and active military (with ID) is \$5. The show fills up the Pavilion, President's Hall and the VanZee Building to bursting every year. You'll find informational booths, lots of plants and products, designers, contractors, builders, landscapers, the Kitsap Noxious Weed booth, the WSU Master Gardeners on the mezzanine level of the Pavilion and a host of speakers and activities through the three-

day run of the event. Bring lots of money, because you won't be able to go home empty handed.

These events will get you warmed up for spring, literally. And, by the time the shows are over, you'll be able to go outside in milder weather to plant and decorate with all those purchases. Happy gardening and come on spring!