

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 10-17-07) Fall Activities and Pink Plants © 2007

October is a good month to learn more about growing dahlias. Our local Kitsap Dahlia Society maintains displays of dahlias at the Silverdale Post Office on Silverdale Way. Come to the post office on Saturday October 27 to learn how to dig up and clean up the tubers. On November 3 at 9 a.m. at the Crystal Grange on Paulson Road in North Kitsap, you can come learn how to clean, divide and label the dahlia tubers. For more information about the Dahlia Society visit www.kitsapdahlias.org where you'll find a schedule of their meetings, archived newsletters and abundant dahlia tips and techniques.

The Kitsap County Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society meets on the last Thursday of each month from September through May with a social hour at 7 p.m. and a meeting and program at 7:30 p.m. at Seabold United Methodist Church, 6894 NE Seabold Church Road on Bainbridge Island. The next meeting is October 25. You can email hrhelm@bainbridge.net for more information. The American Rhododendron Society website is www.rhododendron.org where you'll find nearly everything you'll ever want to know about rhodies or at least a huge start on gathering information and learning about these versatile and easy care plants.

Natural Landscapes Project is presenting two classes on composting. The classes are Sunday October 21 from 1-3 p.m. at Poulsbo Fire Station (across from Poulsbo Village) and Wednesday October 24 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Kitsap Chiropractic at 200 Bethel Road in Port Orchard. Register for the class by calling Bobbie Morgan at 206-842-5955.

There's still time to sign up for the Organic Gardening Course presented by the WSU Master Gardener Program of Kitsap County. Learn how to grow organic veggies on your own property or in a p-patch if you don't have space where you live. The first class is on Saturday October 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Silverdale A-Frame meeting room. Learn about soil, nutrients and garden bed preparation, how to use cover crops, and participate in a field trip to Anna Smith Garden in Tracyton for a hands-on planting of cover crops. Other classes are: January 19 (Garden Planning), February 9 (Maintaining the Garden) and March 1 (Seed Saving and Class Field Trip to organic gardens in our area). Each class is \$35 or \$120 for all four. You can register and attend one class or all of the classes. Checks are payable to WSU Extension Kitsap. Call the Extension Office at 360-337-7157 to register. Or stop by 345 6th Street Suite 550 in Bremerton to register in person. The course description and registration form is online at <http://kitsap.wsu.edu/events/registrations/OrganicGardening.pdf>.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In December of this year I'll have survived my breast cancer diagnosis for twelve years. Each day is precious as are all days that each of us live here on this earth. As a breast cancer survivor I know breast cancer seems to receive the most publicity, but every day we all meet someone who has a family member, co-worker or friend who has received some kind of cancer diagnosis. During October let's each celebrate all cancer survivors and their families and friends who support them and care about them. And, since life is sometimes so short and fleeting, let's each tell someone this week how much we appreciate them or how much we love them. Let's all celebrate our time together here on earth!