

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 11-14-07) Events and Opportunities © 2007

Why not take part in a few energizing activities during November and December? If you need holiday decorations like wreaths and other plant based items, you'll find lots of ways to create your own or have someone create it for you.

Several of our local nurseries feature classes, decorating services and wonderful gift selections during the holiday season. Check out the offerings at: Valley Nursery (Poulsbo), Sacks Feed and Nursery (Kingston), Country Nursery and Gardens (Seabeck Highway), Bremerton City Garden (Bremerton), Carters (Bremerton), Bainbridge Gardens (Bainbridge Island), Bay Hay (Bainbridge Island), Port Orchard Nursery (Port Orchard) and Peninsula Garden and Nursery (Gig Harbor). Or contact your own favorite nursery or garden center to discover their offerings.

November 23, the day after Thanksgiving, bundle up your whole family and head out for a night time beach walk at Fort Ward State Park on Bainbridge Island. Beach naturalist guides will help you explore the beach and find interesting and wonderful sea creatures that come out at night. Dress warmly and be sure to bring: a bright flashlight with good batteries, waterproof boots (you'll be ankle deep in water) and warm hats and gloves. This event is free and family friendly! Refreshments will be served.

The night time beach walk is sponsored by People for Puget Sound, Bainbridge Island Land Trust, Bainbridge Island Shoreline Stewardship Program and Seattle Aquarium's Beach Naturalist Program. Reservations are required. Contact Daoud Miller at 206-382-7007 Extension 217.

Sandy Hardisty of Lilliputs is taking holiday wreath and centerpiece orders during the next several weeks. She can be reached at 360-405-6365. You can also find her at the Winter Bazaar at Ridgetop Junior High, 10600 Hillsboro Drive NW, Silverdale on November 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ann Pyles and daughter Jessica Larson of Smoketree Farms are famous for their succulent wreaths. Visit the Smoketree Farms website at www.smoketreefarms.com to see photos of these living creations that will last for several years. For more information or to order your succulent wreaths, topiaries and decorative balls, call 360-598-2114. Pyles and Larson are also available for classes for groups.

Cynthia Herrick, Artisan and Instructor, of Fern Wood Studio on Bainbridge Island offers several classes through November and December. You can "contain Yourself" November 24 (creating an origami folded box with lid) and November 19 (matchbook box with mini drawers and "take-out" style box). Choose from either 1-3 p.m. or 7-9 p.m. The fee for each class is \$25. On November 27 Herrick will take the mystery out of making bows and help attendees create many wonderful items with ribbons. Dates for the bow and ribbons classes are November 27 and December 1. Choose from either the 1-3 p.m. or 7-9 p.m. option. Each class is \$20.

If you've always wondered about Victorian crackers attend Herrick's class on December 2 from 1-4 p.m. for \$25 where you can make 8 crackers to enjoy during the holidays. Crackers are gift wrapped tubes containing a surprise. The cracker has a strip to pull that makes a celebratory cracking sound.

Herrick also has a charming studio where you can create a holiday wreath utilizing fresh from the farm greens (pine, juniper, noble, cedar, other conifer sprigs and unique plant sprigs). Wreath frames, cones, ribbons, embellishments and expert instruction is part of the \$45 package. Plus you'll enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Come ready to create a magnificent wreath for your home. Make your appointments today. Sessions begin on November 26. Herrick can be contacted at 206-842-7878 or by emailing hereisoverthetop@comcast.net.