

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 11-21-07-Congrats 2007 Master Gardener Graduates) © 2007

Before we dig in to today's column there is a correction to make. We had gremlins in the column last week and the notice about the night time beach walk should have read:

Friday, November 23, the day after Thanksgiving, bundle up your whole family and head out for a night time beach walk (from 8 to 10 p.m.) 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. Note – If you cannot reach Daoud you can still attend the event, just show up.

During Thanksgiving week in addition to being thankful for family and friends, I'm also thankful for all the Washington State University Master Gardeners who work throughout the county in a myriad of ways to help make our gardens and environment an earth friendly place to be. In celebration, here's the list of this year's brand new Master Gardeners, graduates of the Class of 2007. Each of these dedicated new volunteers not only completed 72 hours of class time learning about plants and the environment, but also volunteered 50 hours in their communities from April through October of this year. Together with the existing Master Gardeners from previous year's classes the Kitsap County Master Gardeners contribute more than 20,000 volunteer hours to their communities every year.

Congratulations to the Class of 2007: Cheri Aho, John Albers, Colette Berna, Susan Bowers, Nore Sissel Calhoun, Virgilio Circulado, Jane Dower, Tess Frazier, Dorene Fretwell, Connie Gooding, Ellen Gunderson, Kathy Hawkins, Pamela Henrich, Christi Hickerson, Lynn Hills, Jodie Holdcroft, Ken Hougen, Debbie Ingham, Dorothy Kehres, Tina Klimko, Daphne Lee-Larson, Marianne Mallabon, Janis McNeal, Carol Michel, Nancy Minahan, Bobbie Morgan, Christina Nelson, Chrissy Petoff, Francine Powell, Julie Rhee, James Rodman, Cat Ross, Mary Anne Rossing, Stephanie Sauermann, Sharon Smith, Jen Sterling, Wendy Stowsand, and Libby Weatherson.

This time of year also brings the annual Stillwaters Yuletide Auction. This year's event is December 1 from 5-8 p.m. in Port Gamble at the Historical Theater. You'll enjoy live music, hors d' oeuvres, desserts and lots of items to compete for with your bids. It's a good way to continue or begin the holiday season. All proceeds benefit the great environmental education programs and outreach through the work of Stillwaters Environmental Center in Kingston. Tickets are \$20 for general admission or for \$30 you

can also receive admission along with a Stillwaters commemorative wine glass and one free glass of wine. Call 360-297-2876 to purchase tickets or email info@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org. Tickets are also available at Sacks Feed in Kingston or Stillwaters at 26059 Barber Cut Off Road, Kingston, during their business hours. To learn more about Stillwaters visit their website at www.stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org.