

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for January 30) Local Nursery Websites to Check Out © 2008

I very recently discovered that Roadhouse Nursery on Central Valley Road has a website up and running. In fact, much to my surprise, George Bahr informed me it has been up and running for more than a year. During the same week I was interviewing Tracy Rodgers and Chris Periot at Country Nursery and Gardens on Seabeck Highway and learned they're working on a new website that will be up and running this spring.

I thought you'd like to visit some local nursery websites too so you can start yearning for spring. Upon visiting the sites you may want to get that car warmed up to visit in person for an early gardening fix. Remember, too, that many of these nurseries sell tickets to the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, running February 20-24. Early bird tickets are \$16 until February 2, and \$19 after that.

Roadhouse Nursery's website is www.roadhousenursery.com. Jan and George are known for mentoring gardeners who want to create water gardens or incorporate water loving plants into a landscape. This website shows photos of ponds for inspiration and features a section full of tips on everything about ponds and pond care. You'll also want to check out the "featured pond plant" section.

Sundquist Nursery at www.roadhousenursery.com has exquisitely beautiful photos and Nils Sundquist's pithy and wondrous words. He is not only a master at growing plants galore, but also has a chatty and informative way of conveying his plants person message to us. Nils and his staff actually grow 100,000 plants of several hundred varieties on the grounds of the nursery in any given period. The nursery is open four times a year (all on Fridays and Saturdays). April 11 and 12 is Daffodil Days (featuring daffodils of course, but also epimedium – over 25 varieties and even more); May 2 and 3 is Spring Fling featuring primroses, rhodies, Pacific coast iris and hardy geraniums; June 13 and 14 is Frolicking Ferns and Friends (ferns, ferns and more ferns, plus other delights); September 12 and 13 is Harvest Daze: Kaleidoscopic Foliage (this event features plants in all the myriad colors of fall).

Valley Nursery's website is www.valleynurseryinc.com. The site is full of information and you'll see a listing of upcoming classes. "Creative Garden Journal" taught by Sylvia Smith is Sunday, February 3 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Sylvia will help you find your inner artist and also help you create a fun journal to keep track of your gardening year. Sam Radar, a most treasured plants person, will teach fruit tree pruning on Saturday February 9 at 10 a.m. You'll want to visit the website to discover all the other class offerings in store.

Savage Plants in Kingston www.savageplants.com is gorgeously photographed and put together. You'll want to linger at the site for quite a while. Savage Plants has been steadily growing and developing over the years. They've been building a new gift shop at the site which will be opening in the near future. You'll want to pour over the plant listings on the website too.

Bainbridge Gardens is celebrating their 50 year anniversary this year. The website has a retrospective in photos and words narrating the history. You'll find past newsletters and other features at the site.

You can also sign up online at many of the websites to receive email news and special offers sent to your email address regularly. Sometimes the websites need a bit of updating, but you'll often find something to inform and entice.