

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 01-23-08) Gardening Classes to Enjoy this Winter © 2008

While we're waiting for winter to pass we can attend some workshops and gardening classes. And, to recharge our batteries with dreams of spring and summer, the Northwest Flower and Garden Show is right around the corner.

The Master Gardener Foundation of Kitsap County has a two hour seminar the third Wednesday of each month at the Fairgrounds. Sometimes the seminars are in the Eagle's Nest Meeting Room and other times they're in the conference room at the Pavilion. Visit <http://kitsap.wsu.edu> or www.kitsapgardens.org for a listing of the upcoming seminars for this year. If you don't have internet access call the WSU Extension Office at 360-337-7157 and we'll mail you a list of the seminars available.

WSU Extension Kitsap and Olympic College are partnering to offer home and garden classes. This winter quarter you can attend classes at the Bremerton campus. Soils and Composting is on January 26; Greenhouse Gardening is February 2; Houseplants Demystified is February 9; and Pruning Basics is February 16. All classes are on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon in the new Science Building in Room 127. There's ample free parking at the college on Saturdays. Each class is an affordable \$35 per person. You can call the college at 360-394-2702 to find out how to register. We'll be repeating these classes on weeknights during the spring quarter. In spring several of the classes will be at the Poulsbo Olympic College Campus. If you'd like a particular topic offered through this home and garden series please call Peg at 360-337-7224 and let us know what you'd like to learn more about.

This year for the first time, we have a few open spaces for the public to attend the WSU Kitsap Master Gardener Program basic horticulture classes. The scheduled classes are on the WSU Kitsap website at <http://kitsap.wsu.edu>. Each class is \$25 per person to attend, but you must call the Extension Office at 360-337-7157 to sign up for the class and reserve your space. The classes are in the council chambers meeting space at the Norm Dicks Government Center, 345 6th Street in downtown Bremerton. If you do not have access to the internet you can stop at the Extension Office, Suite 550, to pick up a schedule or give us a call and we can mail you a schedule.

If you are yearning for spring and summer, then you can get a wonderful gardening and even fantasy fix at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in Seattle from February 20 through 24. This is a not to be missed event each year. You'll enjoy strolling through display gardens, visiting the many vendors and you'll be able to shop plant markets to your heart's content. But that's not all. Every day from morning to night you'll be able to attend classes and demonstrations from gardening scene luminaries. The show even has events and activities catering specifically to children.

Most of our local nurseries carry and sell tickets to the show. Call your favorite nursery first to make sure. You can also order tickets online at www.gardenshow.com or phone 206-789-5333. The show has 26 full scale gardens this year and features 120 free seminars sponsored by Sunset and Salmon Bay Events. Here are just a few of the titles of

this year's display gardens: "Sippy-cups to Wine Stems – Harmonious Family Living for Small Gardens," "A Backyard Farm – Urban Agriculture in the Northwest" and "Outdoor Haven – Kick Off Your Shoes." Try the show, you'll like it.