

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 11-5-08) Volunteer Opportunities for Gardeners © 2008

Every year I publish the names of our newest Master Gardener Volunteers in "Dig This." Congratulations Graduates! The Class of 2008 MG graduates is: Fred and Marlene Abrahamson, Roger Bacon, Carolyn Berger, Eugene Brennan, Jade Castillo, Carolyn Chinn, Ron Cleveland, Judy Cole-Martin, Leslee Conner, Laureen Davis, Cherry Edwards, Luba Fetterman, Michelle Gouin, Celia Grether, Ingrid Harper, Ted Hoppin, DJ Jacobson, Jessica Kendrena, Steven Kimbrough, Judith Martin, Gregg Peterson, Georgie Pulliam, Marilyn Raynor, Robbin Small, Pat Steele, Merry Stever, Lisa Stowers, Nancy Taylor, Tish Treherne, Ann Varley, Denise Walsh, Diane Watrous and Lisa-Marie Wilson. These dedicated volunteers each completed 72 hours of instruction in horticulture, plus contributed 50 hours or more of educational outreach and service to their communities.

We are already accepting applications for the Class of 2009. Classes will run every Friday from January 9 through April 10 at the Norm Dicks Government Center in Bremerton. Course tuition is \$225. A group orientation and interview is November 13. Visit http://kitsap.wsu.edu/hort/2009_intern.htm for information about applying for the program. Download, print out, fill out and return the forms and mail them in to reserve your space in the MG Class of 2009.

Saturday October 25 we celebrated the "official" grand opening of Fish Park in Poulsbo. Fish Park meanders along Dog Fish Creek. The park is across the street from Nelson Park. Hundreds of volunteers have worked on this native plant filled nature preserve. For the opening celebrations we were treated to the salmon returning up the creek. The chum salmon are an awesome and mighty fish. Suquamish Tribe fish biologist Paul Dorn enlightened us with information about the salmon and the Suquamish people who lived along Liberty Bay and along Dog Fish Creek for hundreds of years.

Fish Park has a scheduled work party date the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon. This November 15 we will be planting trees. Round up your family and friends and come join us at Fish Park in Poulsbo. If you have questions please call Mary McCluskey at 360-779-9898. We hope to see you there.

One of the volunteers at Fish Park has been Scott Pomtier, owner (along with his wife Nancy Kaiser) of The Wild Bird, 19740 7th Avenue NE Suite B in Poulsbo. Scott has put together a booklet of the birds he's spotted at Fish Park. He's also donated bat houses and bird houses to the park. The Wild Bird website is www.thewildbird.net. During the month of December Pomtier and Kaiser will donate 10 percent of all sales to the West Sound Wildlife Shelter.

The Shelter is the only wildlife hospital and education center located in the entire Western Puget Sound and receives nearly all of its funding in the form of donations from individuals. It expects to treat over 700 wild animal patients this year as well as give unique live-animal education programs to over 5,000 kids and adults. You can find more information about the Shelter at www.westsoundwildlife.org.