

Dig This by Peg Tillery (for 01-07-08) NW Flower and Garden Show

It's time to pick up your tickets for the Northwest Flower and Garden Show held each year at the Washington State Convention Center, 7th and Pike in Seattle. This annual event is the first harbinger of spring for local gardeners. 2009 dates are February 18 through 22. Several of our Kitsap Peninsula garden talents will be there to entertain, enthrall and educate show goers.

This year's theme is "Sustainable Spaces, Beautiful Places." Gardeners both seasoned and brand new can stroll through 26 differently designed spaces. Each display garden will show ways to restore, reuse and rejuvenate gardens while using sustainable and eco-friendly methods. Show designers this year are concentrating on gardens that could definitely be replicated on our own pieces of the earth.

Sue Goetz from "The Creative Gardener" in Gig Harbor has designed a show garden for the fourth year. The garden is titled "L'eau (water) and sage (wise). She's incorporated gravel elements throughout. Plants are water wise, perfectly suited for sunny spaces. Visit Goetz's website at www.thecreativegardener.com.

Dan Robinson from Elandan Gardens in Port Orchard is a featured designer each year at the show. This year Dan becomes a living model in the garden's vignette. "Restoring a Garden to Former Glory" is the theme. The storyline is about a grandfather who now has more time on his hands. He sets out to restore an overgrown, neglected garden to its former glory. Show goers will witness Dan in the display garden demonstrating hands on techniques throughout the show's run. He'll answer pruning, training and planting questions in addition to creating a feast for the senses.

Don't miss renowned garden expert and author, Dan Hinkley: "Plant Lust, Drama Queens - Bold Plants for Show Stopping Effects" on Friday February 20 at 9:45 a.m. and again on Friday at 1:15 "The Garden In Winter - Celebrating Texture, Color and Form." Garden Designer and writer Colleen Miko (Colleen's) will demonstrate "Mosaics, How to Make Mosaic Garden Art" on the DIY Stage on Saturday February 21. Susan Harrington (Labyrinth Hill Lavender) will show children, parents and interested adults the "Five Minute Greenhouse - Make Your Own Mini-Greenhouse" on Saturday and Sunday February 21 and 22. Garden Designer and writer Susan Goetz (The Creative Gardener) will speak on "In Love With Lavender, Creative Uses for Fragrant Lavender" on Sunday Feb. 22.

Early bird tickets for the show are \$16 purchased locally at: Bay Hay, Bainbridge Gardens, Town and Country Market, Central Market, Valley Nursery, Bremerton City Nursery, and Rosedale Gardens. According to the Garden Show website the early bird rate is good until February 17. After that the price is \$20. Visit the show's website for more details <http://www.gardenshow.com/seattle/index/index.cfm>

If journeying to Seattle is too daunting come explore 6 hour gardening classes on select Fridays from January through March 2009 at the Norm Dicks Government Center in

Bremerton. Horticulture topics vary each Friday. Find the complete listing of classes and registration details at http://kitsap.wsu.edu/events/pdf/2009_Gardening_Courses.pdf. Each class is \$35 payable in advance. If you do not have access to the Internet call 360-337-7157 and the WSU Kitsap Extension Office will send you a printed schedule and details.