

DIG THIS by Peg Tillery (for 7-1-09) Fantastic Fun in August © 2009

August abounds in a host of events to appeal to gardeners and everyone who knows them. Starting July 29 and running through the Kitsap County Fair August 24 through 30 fantastic fun events abound.

The Martha and Mary Health and Rehab Center 2009 Garden Tour is Wednesday, July 29, from 6:30-8 p.m. at 19160 Front Street in Poulsbo. Each year the public is invited to stroll through the resident gardens and greenhouse. It's an opportunity to learn about the horticulture program and how it impacts the lives of those living at the facility. The tour begins in the chapel. To rsvp please call Sandy Pache, Horticulture Coordinator at 360-779-7500 extension 4317 or email gardenactivity@mmhc.org. There is no charge for this event but donations to the horticulture program are gladly accepted.

Saturday August 1 from 1-6 p.m. and Sunday August 2 is the 85th Annual Dahlia Show in Presidents Hall at the Kitsap Fair Grounds. If you grow dahlias the Kitsap Dahlia Society, who coordinates the show, says bring your entries from 7-9:30 a.m. that day. They'll show you how to enter and you may just win an award. Admission is free. For more information call 360-792-9596 or visit www.kitsapdahlias.org.

Take in both the Dahlia Show on August 1 and the Anna Smith Children's Garden open house put on by the WSU Kitsap Extension Master Gardeners. The garden is north of the intersection of Tracyton Blvd and Fairgrounds Road. Parking is available along the road and in the parking lot on Fairgrounds Road. Master Gardeners will be there from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. offering guided tours of the Native Plant Trail and providing the opportunity to learn a host of gardening tips and techniques. The Master Gardeners will also have plants for sale to help defray the cost of signage at the Native Plant Trail.

This day at the garden also features the grand opening of the butterfly garden celebrating the Fiskars award presented to the WSU Kitsap Master Gardeners to expand their programs at the garden. For more details on the award and to see exquisite and inspiring photos of the garden and the children and adults visiting the garden please visit the Fiskars website <http://grantgardens.projectorangethumb.com/?cat=10>.

Speaking of kids the WSU Extension Master Gardeners at both Anna Smith Children's Garden and Raab Park Youth Garden in Poulsbo (south end of Caldart) are offering free gardening classes for kids and their accompanying adults on every Monday from now through August 24 at Raab Park and every Wednesday from now through August 26. Flyers listing the classes are available at all the Kitsap Farmers Markets and/or by calling the WSU Kitsap Extension Office at 360-337-7158. Master Gardeners are onsite at Anna Smith from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays and at Raab Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays.

Don't miss the Great Peninsula Future Festival on August 1 and 2 in Pt. Gamble. Admission is \$7 for adults, 12 and under free and 18 and under \$5. Parking is free. Enjoy over a hundred green lifestyle exhibits, lots of fun activities for kids, speakers on a host

of topics, money-saving workshops, hand made crafts by local artisans and taste tempting food. You'll also be entertained by the New Old Time Chautauqua (old time vaudeville troupe which includes live music, magic shows, juggling and acrobatics). Don't miss this wonderful event running from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Visit www.GreatPeninsulaFutureFestival.org for even more details.

Last but not least the Kitsap County Fair runs August 26 through 30 this year. You could have even more fun this year at the fair by entering something you've created in the last year. Entries in photography, art, home arts, crafts and hobbies are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on August 15 and 16. Open Class Horticulture and Open Class Floriculture are from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday August 24 because these items are more perishable. http://www.kitsapgov.com/parks/fair_stampede_09/exhibitors_guides/open_class_entire.pdf lists the complete Premium Book explaining how and when to enter items for the fair. Be sure to read carefully and follow all instructions to avoid disqualifying.

Note: Since this column only runs the third Friday of each month, for more gardening information please consult http://kitsap.wsu.edu/hort/dig_this_toc.htm for nearly 10 years of gardening information.

Sidebar:

July 29 – Martha and Mary horticulture tour – 6:30-8 p.m.

August 1 – Anna Smith Garden Open House – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

August 1 & 2 – Dahlia Show – Sat. 1-5 p.m. and Sun. Noon to 4 p.m.

August 1 & 2 – Great Peninsula Future Festival – Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

August 24 through 28 – Kitsap County Fair – Mon. through Sat. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Children's gardening:

Raab Park in Poulsbo – every Monday from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Anna Smith in Tracyton – every Wednesday from 9:30 to noon