

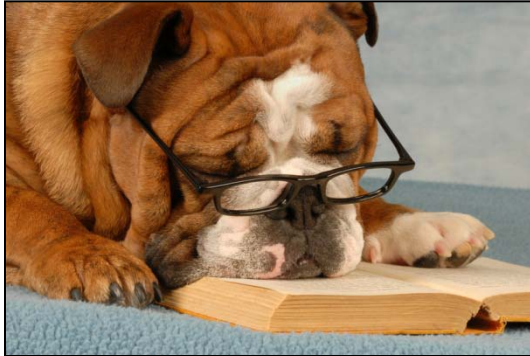


# Ponderosa Press



## Ponderosa Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

April 2012 Edition



### Read to a Dog Night!

Enjoy sharing a book with a furry friend while improving your reading skills! Open to all school age children and their families. Wednesdays, April 4 & 18, Thursdays, April 12 & 26 and Fridays, April 6 & 20, 4 – 5 p.m.  
Sumner Pierce County Library  
1116 Fryar Ave. 98390 • 253-548-3306

*No registration required. All participating dogs are certified therapy dogs*

### Meet Beauty and the Beast Disney Characters

[Cutters Point Coffee Shop](#)  
[16739 S.E. 272nd St., Covington WA](#)

Saturday, Apr. 7, 2012, 9 – 11 a.m.  
Kentlake High School and Cutters Point Coffee Shop invite you to come enjoy a FREE and fun family event to meet Belle, The Beast and some of your other favorite characters from Disney's Beauty and the Beast. Be sure to bring your cameras!



### FREE Raised Bed Gardening Class Offered

Start spring right! Learn about raised bed gardening with Kelli Sugihara from Washington State University Puyallup Research & Extension Center.

Register online @ [piercecounyalibrary.org/calendar](http://piercecounyalibrary.org/calendar)

**Bonney Lake Pierce County Library**  
18501 90th St. E. 98391 • 253-548-3308  
**Saturday, April 14, 2 p.m.**

*Friends of the Bonney Lake Library sponsor this free event*

### Daffodil Parade reminder



Don't forget to get out with your family and enjoy the Daffodil Parade. This two-hour parade includes approx. 40 floats That are decorated with thousands of fresh daffodils, marching bands and more. The parade travels through the towns of Tacoma (10:15 a.m.), Puyallup (12:45 p.m.), Sumner (2:30 p.m.) and Orting (5 p.m.).

**JOIN LEGO MADNESS!! @ The Bonney Lake Library**  
**Bring your imagination and build something awesome with the Library's Lego's. Tuesday, April 10, 2 – 4 p.m.**

Ages 6 and up. Parents please plan to stay with children in need of assistance. No registration required. Drop in any time during the event.  
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### Point Defiance Earth Day Party

April 14 - April 15

Head for the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium for a bear-y fun Party for the Planet this Earth Day Weekend!

Learn how to shrink your carbon paw-print as our polar bears lick away climate change from the viewing windows with icing at Noon. Get up-close to a lynx and watch our keepers interact with the clouded leopards.

#### Earth Day Animal Appearances:

- 11:00 Aquarium Encounter
  - Sat Outer Reef Shark Feed
  - Sun Lagoon Feed
- 12:00 Polar Bear Keeper Talk
- 12:30 Asia Keeper Talk
- 1:00 Elephant Keeper Talk
- 1:30 Wild Wonders Close Encounter & Earth Day Enrichment with the Lynx
- 2:00 Red Wolf Keeper Talk
- 2:30 Earth Day Enrichment with the Clouded Leopards



### Kids' Fishing Derby

Don't miss this annual event! Prizes will be awarded in several categories. Children must provide their own rod and tackle.

Registration begins at 6:30am. Register day of the event, \$3 cash only per child.

Parents are encouraged to help their children.

**Ages: 12 and under**



**Saturday, April 28 | 7:00 – 9:00am | Bradley Lake Park  
Behind the Puyallup Wal-Mart**

### Sewing to Sowing Living History Day

April 28, 2012

11 am - 4 pm



Take a trip back in time with the re-enactors of Fort Nisqually during the spring planting season. You'll get to experience what a spring day in 1855 was like while exploring the fort's buildings and visiting with the fort's re-enactors. Enjoy a garden talk in the fort's heritage garden and learn about ladies' Bonnets in the Great Room. See Letitia Huggins' 1862 sewing machine on display and find out how these early machines worked with demonstrations of a similar Wheeler & Wilson sewing machine. Hands-on activities for the whole family including 1800s games, butter churning, laundry techniques and more!

		Admission	
Adult (18-64)	\$6.50	Senior (65+)	Student
Active Military/Spouse	\$5		
Youth (4-17)	\$4	Agess 3 and under	

Family \$22 (Up to 2 adults & 6 youth)

**Do you read the Ponderosa Press???**

**Let us know what you think !**

**Email me at [gailarae@hotmail.com](mailto:gailarae@hotmail.com)**



**To submit comments and story ideas :0)**

**PLEASE PUT PEHOA IN THE SUBJECT LINE TO ENTER**

**Respondents will be entered into a drawing for a \$10 Starbucks gift card!!!**



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### Growing a Garden for Frugal Eating

By Cary Anderson

The end of winter is nearly upon us which means the bounty of spring is just around the corner. If you've never grown your own food, take a moment to consider some of the benefits. It's a cheap, healthy food source; You are connecting with nature; Sense of accomplishment; Motivation to be creative in kitchen; A chance to bond with friends/family. Growing a garden or even just maintaining some potted plants on a patio is one of those rare win-win propositions of life. Similar to exercising or eating healthy, growing your own food offers basically nothing but pure upside. Shouldn't we all be looking for these "can't lose" opportunities that life has to offer?

#### Miracle of Seeds

If you're new to growing plants, don't worry. Humans have been doing it for thousands of years and you can too. The amazing thing about gardening is the incredible return on investment that seeds offer. A few cents spent on seeds can yield several dollars worth of produce. A good starting point for anyone new to gardening is to grow lettuce. Lettuce is one of the easiest things to grow. If you have a yard where grass is growing, turn that soil over and plant lettuce seeds. Join what is unfortunately a tiny minority of home owners who use their yard as a money-saving resource by growing vegetables rather than grass.

#### How Much Can You Save?

A modest aim for return on investment by starting a garden is 500%. In other words, if you spend \$100 on supplies, seeds, water, and compost for your garden, you should be able to yield an amount of produce that would cost \$500 to buy in stores. You may save even more than this depending on certain factors like rainfall and reuse of certain supplies.

Some of the best value crops to grow in terms of how many dollars in produce they will yield are: tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, onions, and carrots. Conveniently, these crops will grow just about anywhere with a nice summer climate (which might not be the case for crops like avocado or mango which require a more specialized, tropical climate).

By investing time, effort and a little money on needed supplies, gardening can yield a savings of several hundred or even thousands of dollars per year depending on the size of your garden and family.

#### Tips Worth Considering

Here are some closing tips worth considering with regards to growing your own garden:

*Start small.* You don't need to turn your entire property into a produce-growing machine right this second. Do what you can handle. Try planting some lettuce and tomatoes this year in a small corner of your lawn to see what you think of the results. You can always expand your garden in future seasons!

*Preserve for later.* Vegetables like potatoes and garlic will keep for months when stored properly. Other vegetables like tomatoes have a shorter shelf life and need to be eaten sooner after harvest. If you find yourself with too many tomatoes on hand, preserve them by canning them! You can use them as the foundation for a great stew or pasta dish later in the year.

*Include a friend.* Starting a garden with a friend or family member can make the experience much more enjoyable. Gardens require a fair bit of upkeep. It can be nice to have someone else dedicated to maintaining responsibility for the garden. But if you decide to go it alone, that can be rewarding too. Like we said, gardening is win-win



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### Frugal Non-Candy Easter Basket Filler Ideas

Easter is one of the biggest holidays of the year and many children look forward to receiving brand new dress clothes and baskets every year. Often Easter baskets are usually filled with different types of treats such as colorful jellybeans, chocolate bunnies, and while these candies are usually a part of the traditional part of Easter, parents can also place non-candy items inside of baskets that their children will enjoy.

Here are some Inexpensive Easter Basket Filler Ideas:

One type of non-candy item that parents can use for Easter baskets are bubbles. Many children like playing with bubbles since they offer fun and excitement to them. Blowing bubbles might get a little messy for young children but they can make a great alternative form of entertainment other than consuming sweets. Another type of non-candy Easter basket filler are coloring books or mini coloring pad. Coloring books and pads offer children more than instant gratification from eating sweets; it allows them to use their artistic skills and to pass the time away coloring pictures or doing activities.

Children's' books are always fun to give to kids during the Easter season. Little girls like dolls and many commercial toy sellers offer Easter themed dolls for little girls during this holiday season. Miniature toy cars are always fun items for little boys and they can be used as a basket gift. Etch a sketches will probably always remain a childhood favorite and they can make great additions to an Easter basket.

Sticker sets can be used by children to create their own Easter adventures. Parents can purchase Easter play sets for children that consist of bunnies, chickens, cows and other farm animals.

Pinwheels are definitely a spring time favorite that children enjoy and they can be offered to children during the Easter holiday.

Kites are a favorite amongst kids and are relatively inexpensive, often under \$3.

Airplane Kits- these are "make your own airplane" kits that are wooden or foam and are often \$1 or 2/\$1. They are great fun and the kids have a blast putting them together.

There are a variety of gift ideas that parents can use for Easter that do not involve candy or other sweet treats. Be creative! Choose a theme and include appropriate items for that theme. Don't forget to make sure that all items are age appropriate too.

