

GARDEN GAZETTE

April - June, 2014

John Christianson, *Editor*

CHRISTIANSON'S Nursery & Greenhouse

An Enticing Selection of Common and Uncommon Plants . . . Friendly Service . . . Expert Advice

Garden Party



You know that feeling of panic that comes when you're hosting a party and guests start arriving faster than you can greet them? Coats are flying every which way. The noise level rises, empty spaces are suddenly full, and your orderly checklist is lost in the whirlwind. Ready or not, the party is happening!

This is how I feel when spring comes to my garden. It always catches me off guard.

Humming along in early spring, I move through the garden and down my checklist with casual confidence. Every Monday our 'Clean Green' bin is full of weeds and pruning debris. Check! The roses are fed and the garden beds are mulched. Check! On blustery days, I sit at the computer and learn about all the creative (and backbreaking) ways to make compost. Check! There's certainly more to do, but progress is being made. No need for alarm.

But sometime in early May, often after an innocent spring rain, the garden erupts and everything happens at once. The plants - especially the weeds - are suddenly twice as big and the pathways have disappeared. There's an endless parade of dazzling colors and head-turning fragrances. There are companion pairings I never imagined and guests I don't even recognize have appeared. A shrub that was diminutive and well-behaved just last season is boldly reaching a long side branch around a nearby tree. The snails are eating everything. The weeds are mingling with the sweet alyssum, cavorting with the ornamental grasses, muscling through the crowd. The volume has gone way up with all the twittering, buzzing, and ribbiting from morning to night. And who's playing with the lights? It's dark, then bright, then dark, then bright. Pandemonium!

After a few frantic attempts to maintain control, I soon realize that while I provided the space and opportunity, this garden party has taken on a life of its own. And that's okay. The best I can do is keep the food coming and the drinks replenished, take a vigilant and firm stand with the weeds, and just be grateful that everyone is thriving and looking so healthy. The party is here, and it's time to join the celebration.

When I finally step back and take it all in, I usually think of a few other plants that should be at this party. They would have been such a great addition. There's always room for a few more, right? And that's perfect because 'buy more plants' is still on my checklist. Yippee! Just one more reason to kick up my heels and enjoy the party.

Happy spring, everyone!

~Eve Boe

Reprinted from the May, 2013 edition of *Garden Notes*, our monthly on-line newsletter. To sign up for *Garden Notes*, go to www.christiansonnursery.com/whats-happening/newsletters/

First Annual Antique Fair in the Schoolhouse

Saturday, June 21

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Located in our 1888 Meadow Schoolhouse and under the 'Big Tent'

We love antiques (and historic preservation) so much we've decided to make it an event!

Join us for a day of shopping quality antiques and collectibles
from local antique dealer's right here at the Nursery!





Tulip Season Highlights

Art in the Schoolhouse

Friday, April 4 – Sunday, April 27 Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For a seventh season, we will host an outstanding show of local art from the Stanwood Camano Arts Guild. Located in our historic 1888 Schoolhouse, new and returning artists will display a multimedia celebration of styles including outdoor stained glass garden art, paintings, jewelry, cards, photography, fiber arts and more. A must-see stop while touring the picturesque daffodil and tulip fields of the Skagit Valley.

Judy and Annie's Philly Sandwiches & Crepes

Weekends in April

Back by popular demand, Judy and Annie will be offering their warming lunch fare on weekends and some weekdays during April, weather permitting. In addition to Philly cheesesteak sandwiches and five types of crepes, they will also be offering their award-winning Crab-Shrimp Chowder and fresh-squeezed lemonade.

Fourth Annual Historic Homes Tour

Saturday, April 5 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Skagit County Historical Museum presents its 4th Historic Home Tour. This year features an eclectic group of homes and structures in the historic town of Edison. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 day of event, and are available in our Garden Store.

Mother's Day at Christianson's

We aim to delight all of your senses when you come to Christianson's Nursery during Mother's Day weekend, May 10 – 11. The brilliant colors of blooms everywhere and sweet scents in the air invite you to join in this cheerful tradition. This year, in addition to our spectacular hanging baskets, we are creating darling tabletop baskets with blooming bulbs, ferns and spring flowers tucked in for an instant centerpiece or porch adornment. (These tabletop baskets will be available all of April through Mother's Day.) You can't go wrong with a gift certificate for Mom, packaged with some of our tasty chocolates or a gift from Primrose, our Antique and Gift Shop. We also have a fine selection of gardening accessories such as vintage or modern hand tools, containers and statuary. Bring a picnic if the weather is warm and enjoy our Schoolhouse Garden and the amusing antics of our llamas and sheep. As always, we will be serving complimentary homemade chocolate chip cookies and coffee.

intoxicated by the romance of the unusual

~ Ernest Hemingway



Abbie Kunch Photography

PRIMROSE
a promise of the unexpected

at

CHRISTIANSON'S
Nursery & Greenhouse


Open Daily 9 - 6

*antiques and fancy goods
for Mother's Day*

A Rosy Day Out: Eleventh Annual Rose Festival

Saturday, June 28

Back by popular demand, keynote speakers Ciscoe Morris and John Christianson will talk roses again this year! Before Ciscoe we are pleased that Rosarian Jeff Wyckoff will give a class on Organic Rose Gardening at 11 a.m., located in the Big Tent. The schedule of events include:



8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Rose Display entry submission
9 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Self-guided tour of Schoolhouse Rose Garden
10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Tri-Valley Rose Society Display
10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Tri-Valley Rose Society members available for rose advice
11 a.m. – noon	Jeff Wyckoff talks about Sustainable Rose Growing
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Robyn Swesey and Larry Sawyer of the Tri-Valley Rose Society talk about “Tips & Tricks for the Best Bloom”
2 p.m.	Ciscoe Morris and John Christianson presents Favorite Roses and Rose Companions, followed by a Rose Ice Cream Social

Calling All Rosarians

As part of Christianson’s Annual Rose Festival, the Tri-Valley Rose Society is hosting a Rose Display in our Schoolhouse and is extending an invitation to amateurs and experts alike to submit their roses to be voted on in the following categories: (1) Best in Show, (2) Best Fragrant Rose and (3) Best Floral Display incorporating perennials with roses. Ciscoe Morris and John Christianson will announce the winners and gift certificates will be awarded. Entries must be submitted between 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. on the day of the festival.



Skagit Symphony: Gardens of Note

Sunday, June 29

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Private Gardens in the Skagit Valley are featured, with live music at each location, in this lovely tour that is a fundraiser for the Skagit Symphony. Tickets and full information are at www.skagitsymphony.com or call the symphony office at 360-848-9336.

Queen Bee Espresso

Most Weekends in April, Mother's Day & June
9 AM - 3 PM

Satisfy that coffee craving with our new espresso service! Local Barista Tami Roberts of Queen Bee Espresso will artfully create your coffee concoction to perfection!

It's Time to Plant Pumpkins!

Packets of Giant Pumpkin seeds harvested from the 3 biggest pumpkins of last year are now available to you at no charge! Each packet has one seed from each pumpkin and instructions for growing one of these giants. April is when you need to start germinating your seeds of giant pumpkins indoors for transplanting outdoors later – and you’ll want to be part of the fun this year, since Christianson’s is planning its best Giant Pumpkin Festival ever! The Fourth Annual Skagit Valley Giant Pumpkin Festival is set for Saturday, September 27. We’ll have great prizes for the pumpkin weigh-off, games and food, music and pony rides – a day not to be missed!



Stay in Touch.

Website: www.christiansonsnursery.com
Garden Notes: Our monthly emailed newsletter
(Sign up on our web site)
Facebook: Like us on our web site

Pinterest: <http://www.pinterest.com/primrosegifts>
Radio: The Garden Show with John & Mike
Sunday mornings, 10:30 a.m.
AM 660 KAPS

Rhododendron Flower Show

Saturday, April 26 10:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Rhododendrons put on one of the most eagerly awaited flower shows in spring. Not only do rhodies provide a burst of fabulous springtime color and add year-round interest to your landscape, their bud and blossom cuttings make stunning spring bouquets. Come be inspired by the Komo Kulshan Rhododendron Society's Flower Show, held in the Propagation House here at the Nursery.

An Evening of Wine & Artisan Chocolate In The Schoolhouse

Friday, May 30, 2014

7 - 9 pm



Experience a luscious tasting sensation of wines paired with hand-crafted chocolates in the Schoolhouse; enjoy soft jazz entertainment in the Rose Garden and stroll through the Nursery and Greenhouses to enjoy a burst of spring. Please join us on this special evening to benefit the new La Conner Regional Library building project, proudly hosted by Christianson's Nursery and presented by the La Conner Library Foundation.

Jeff Hellam of Hellam's Vineyard in La Conner and chocolatier Crystal Scheer of Charmed Chocolates in Bellingham have teamed up to present each guest a complete pairing of six wines and six artisan chocolates. You'll learn about the distinctive tastes of each pairing (including the local ingredients featured in each chocolate) from two individuals who are both passionate about what they do and eager to share their knowledge. The focus will be on Washington wines specially paired with chocolates made at the Bow Hill Blueberry Farm commercial kitchen.

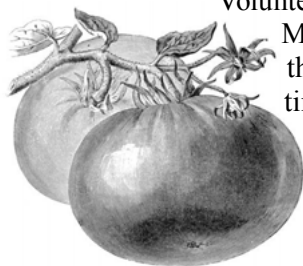
10% of all plant sales made during this event will be donated to the new library project. A special shopping time for attendees the day of the event is 5 – 9 p.m. Please present your ticket to the cashier.

Tickets at \$25 apiece will be available April 1, 2014 at Brown Paper Tickets (www.brownpapertickets.com), Christianson's Nursery or from the La Conner Library Foundation, 614 Morris Street, La Conner, WA 98257. A maximum of 100 tickets will be sold. Must be 21 years and older to attend.

Custom Containers

Elissa is coming back for her 8th season and would love to create beautiful containers for you. Creating beauty for others is a passion of hers. Bring in your pots, or she'll help you choose from our container selection. She'll be back here the beginning of April through Mother's Day. If possible, come in early in the season as she is busier closer to Mother's Day. Appointments are welcome but not necessary. If you would like to make an appointment, please call us at 360-466-3821.

Master Gardener Clinics



Volunteers from the WSU Skagit County Master Gardener Program will be at the Nursery this spring. Dates and times will be posted on our web site and through our on-line newsletter, Garden Notes.

Spring Classes

Aeroponics Demonstration

Saturday, April 5 1 – 2 p.m.
reservations requested complimentary

Learn how you can control your food's growing environment, eliminating the need for pesticides and messy growing mediums by using Aeroponics. **Allyson McCormick** will show you how to be in control of your food from seed to harvest right in your back yard, on your deck, patio, or even indoors! With the right equipment, bountiful harvests of healthy fruits and veggies are easily and sustainably grown in small spaces.

Indoor Suitable

Bonsai Workshop

Sunday, June 1 1 – 3:30 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$49
class limit: 12 Materials fee: \$35



Bonsai expert, **Tori Lenze** will teach a beginning level workshop encompassing the creation of an indoor bonsai. During the class students learn the basics of transplanting and shaping for a lovely specimen suitable for indoors. All materials are included in the fee and students need to bring small pruners, gloves and enthusiasm for this amazing art form. Take the second class offered on June 8th and receive 20% off that class fee.

The Point and Shoot Camera:

Every Gardener's Best Friend

Saturday, June 7 11 a.m. – noon
reservations required class fee: \$8



Every gardener who seeks to capture the elusive moments of perfection in plants and gardens must inevitably turn to photography. Hear **John and Kathy Willson** explain how to use the newest gardening tool - "the digital point and shoot camera", to capture the stunning color and design of gardens and plantings.

To make your reservations for classes and events,
Please visit the Nursery or call us at
360-466-3821 or 1-800-585-8200.

Conifer Bonsai Workshop

Sunday, June 8 1 – 3:30 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$49
class limit: 12 Materials fee: \$35

Bonsai expert, **Tori Lenze** will teach a beginning level workshop encompassing the creation of a bonsai conifer. During the class students learn the basics of transplanting and shaping for that species. All materials are included in the fee and students need to bring small pruners & gloves. Take the class on June 1st and receive 20% off this class fee.

Ornamental Grasses for Every Garden

Saturday, June 14 11 a.m. – noon
reservations required class fee: \$8

Grasses add texture and interest to every garden style. Our grass expert and buyer, **Eric Andrews** will discuss many different grass varieties and their cultural requirements. He will also show you how to best use them in the garden to create a great visual effect.



June Bloom Walk with John Christianson

Saturday, June 14 1 – 2 p.m.
reservations requested complimentary

With summer just around the corner, join **John Christianson** on a stroll among the flowering trees, late season rhododendrons and early roses at the 11 acre English Garden of La Conner Flats, adjacent to our Nursery. The walk begins at our Schoolhouse Garden; from there you'll meander next door to discover the highlights of the season.

Sustainable Rose Growing

Saturday, June 28 11 a.m. – noon
reservations required complimentary

To many gardeners, growing roses organically can seem like an ominous prospect. Join Master Rosarian **Jeff Wyckoff** for an overview of healthy cultural practices, disease resistant rose varieties, and earth friendly products that will ensure great roses without the many chemicals traditional rose gardening demands.



Spring Specials

April 1 - 13

Magnolias

hundreds of beautiful blooming trees
with white, pink, purple or yellow
flowers, including evergreen varieties
20% off

May 1 - 11

Basket Stuffers

premium annuals for baskets or gardens
growing in 2" pots
20% off

May 10 - 11

Mother's Day Weekend Special

Eastern and Asiatic dogwood trees in
bloom (approximately 6' to 8' tall)
20% off

May 19 - June 1

Fuchsias

hardy, upright and trailing fuchsias
in baskets and 2, 4 and 6-inch pots
20% off

June 16 - 29

Perennials

our best selection of perennials ever:
4-inch, quarts and 1-gallon
20% off

April 14 - 30

Rhododendrons and Azaleas

thousands to choose from, including
evergreen and deciduous azaleas
20% off

May 5 - 11

Geraniums

zonal, ivy, scented and fancy-leaf
growing in 4" pots
20% off

May 12 - 18

Shady Days

shade-loving tuberous begonias, fancy
double impatiens and New Guinea
impatiens in 4" pots
20% off

June 2 - 15

Vines

clematis, honeysuckle, jasmine,
wisteria, akebia and more
1-gallon to 5-gallon sizes
20% off

June 30 - July 6

"Lemon" Sale

ugly plants with beautiful futures:
nursery seconds at greatly reduced prices
50% to 70% off

CLASSES & EVENTS

April 4 - 27

Art at the Schoolhouse 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 5

Aeroponics Demonstration 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 26

Rhododendron Truss Show 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday, May 30

Wine & Chocolate Tasting 6 - 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 1

Indoor Suitable Bonsai Workshop 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 7

The Point & Shoot Camera 11 a.m. - noon

Sunday, June 8

Conifer Bonsai Workshop 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 14

Ornamental Grasses for Every Garden 11 a.m. - noon

Saturday, June 14

June Bloom Walk 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 21

First Annual Antique Fair 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, June 28

11th Annual Rose Festival 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 28

Sustainable Rose Growing 11 a.m. - noon

Weekly Radio Broadcast

The Garden Show

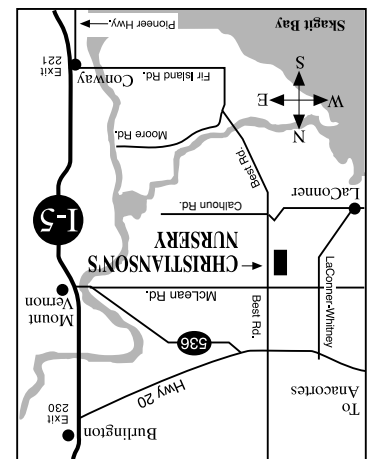
Sunday Mornings

With John & Mike

AM 660 KAPS • 10:30 am

**Open Daily 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Fridays in May open until 7 p.m.**

From Bellingham: Take Exit 230. Go 5 miles west on Hwy. 20 to Best Road. Turn south, go 2 miles on Best Road.
From Everett: Take Exit 221. Go 8.5 miles west on Fir Island Road to Best Road. Continue north on Best Road. Nursery is 1 mile north of the intersection with Chilberg/Calhoun Road.



360-466-3821 • 1-800-585-8200

CHRISTIANSON'S
Nursery & Greenhouse
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www.christiansonnursery.com

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