

GARDEN GAZETTE

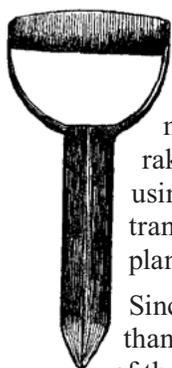
January - March, 2014

John Christianson, Editor

CHRISTIANSON'S Nursery & Greenhouse

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

A Dibble, By Any Other Name!



Dibble...the name of a wonderful little tool used throughout England in years gone by. This humble and obscure tool makes gardening a lot easier although I would use it whether it made gardening sense or not. And I suppose a stick or hoe would work almost as well but I like the exactness of the planting hole the dibble makes. The name even sounds easy. It does not have the 'nose to the grindstone' sound like the words shovel, rake, crowbar, and rototiller. And with its use comes the last, easiest, and most fun part of planting our garden; using the dibble to make small, rather pointed holes. I can easily make 'knot garden' designs of green leaf lettuce transplants curved into red leaf lettuce transplants or lacy carrot foliage circled into dark, bold spinach leaves. I can plant in rows or I can do it all free hand. The dibble allows me to plant an artistic vegetable garden.

Since we look down on our vegetable garden from our house, it just makes sense to have fun with the garden rather than do the same thing with straight rows year after year. My old dibble is my favorite garden tool; in part because of the whimsical name, in part because of the uniqueness of the tool and in part because of the association with that wonderful tired and satisfied feeling of a complete day of work in the garden, since a dibble can only be used after we have done all the hard work and used up the better part of the day preparing our vegetable garden for the coming season. And, this antique tool always reminds me how very close those lives are that at times seem so far past. There is something comforting about repeating a springtime ritual that has been repeated over and over down through the ages. I like using a tool that has been worn by the hands of time, even if I do not know that tool's history. There is something so basic about good weather, fragrant and nutritious soil, vegetable seedlings and old wooden tools. It is another reminder that while high tech is developing at warp speed, something as basic as growing food for our families has not changed for centuries. And, at least for our family, it is during the last little bit of blissful dusk on a warm May evening that we finish planting, put the dibble and other garden tools away, sit down with a cup of tea and listen to Nat King Cole while watching darkness catch the twilight, happy with another official start of our vegetable gardening year.

Toni Christianson

Reprinted from the Garden Gazette, February - March, 2005



NORTHWEST
FLOWER & GARDEN
SHOW

Flower Buses to the Northwest Flower & Garden Show

This year, the Northwest Flower and Garden Show takes place February 5 - 9. We are happy once again to offer our "Flower Buses" so you can enjoy the show without the stress of driving and finding parking. Buses leave the Nursery at 8:30 a.m. and return at around 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 5, 6 and 7. The cost of a combination show ticket and bus ride is \$53. Call the Nursery today (360-466-3821) to reserve your space. The nursery also has early bird tickets for just the show (\$17 per person, a \$5 saving over the at-the-door price). While at the show, check out the great plants we have for sale at the Treasure Island booth #2522.

A Fascination for Hellebores

Christianson's Eighth Annual Winter Festival: February 22 - 23

On Saturday, February 22, at 11 a.m., Guest Speaker Riz Reyes will be presenting "*Hellebores: A Primer for Gardeners and Floral Designers.*"

A glorious profusion of the newest hellebores will turn our vintage 1946 greenhouse into a tapestry of jewel tones. Helping us celebrate this winter flower will be noted Horticulturist **Riz Reyes**, who will present the basic types, culture and breeding of Hellebores. He will also discuss using them in the garden and containers. After his presentation, Riz will demonstrate how to incorporate Hellebores as cut flowers into floral designs.



Christianson's Winter & Spring Calendar

Which Path to Take?

Saturday, January 18 11 a.m. – noon
reservations required class fee \$8

Walkways play an important role in allowing access through the garden and to the planting beds during all seasons of the year. Garden Designer, **Dawn Chaplin** will focus on surface or *ground plane* of the garden and will examine a variety of styles and materials commonly used to build attractive and functional walkways, paths and patios. She will illustrate several design concepts and hardscape options with images taken while visiting gardens in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

Impressionistic Photography for Flowers and Gardens

Saturday, January 25 11 a.m. – noon
reservations required class fee \$8

Inspired by the nineteenth Century French Impressionist painters, more and more garden photographers are discovering with long exposures, they can use their cameras as a "digital paintbrush." **John and Kathy Willson**, founders of *Swede Hill Dahlia and Sunflower Farm* will teach photographers of all levels how to "paint with their camera" using shutter speed to reveal flows of motion and form not otherwise noticed or recordable with automatic camera settings. Time will be budgeted for "hands-on" demonstrations in the nursery at the conclusion of the forty-five minute classroom presentation.

Rose Pruning

Saturday, February 1 11 a.m. – noon
reservations required class fee: \$8



Learn the tried and true techniques for pruning roses. Rosarian **John Harmeling**, will teach the three steps of pruning for health, shape and best bloom quality. Whether you have tea, rugosa or climbing roses, this class will guide you towards keeping your roses healthy and blooming for years to come.

Basic Fruit Tree Pruning

Saturday, February 15 11 a.m. – noon
reservations required class fee: \$8

A glorious palette of colors and sensuous array of textures can delight you in the garden during fall and winter, and **Ani Gurnee** of *Aulos Design* has inspired ideas to help you make the most of the cool seasons. She'll guide you with plant choices and tips for pruning to enhance seasonal beauty and fruit production.



Winter Festival

Saturday, February 22 11 a.m. – noon.
reservations requested complimentary

See above: "Hellebores: A primer for gardeners and floral designers".

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

Christianson's Winter & Spring Calendar (continued)

How to Prune...So You Don't Have to Prune So Often

Sunday, February 23 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$8

Great looking plants with less work and waste. Come learn how in this talk by arborist, **Chris Pfeiffer** about ways to use the right methods, tools and timing for the most effective pruning of garden shrubs and trees. Chris is a horticulture consultant, instructor and garden writer with over 30 years experience in landscape management and arboriculture.

Espalier Pruning

Saturday, March 1 11 a.m. – noon.
reservations required class fee: \$8



Learn how to create and maintain beautiful Espalier fruit trees. **Ani Gurnee** of *Aulos Design* will take you through the steps that will help ensure good form and success with this age old pruning form. Learn which ornamental trees and shrubs also take well to Espalier.

The Shade Garden

Sunday, March 2 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$8

Shade gardening may seem like a challenge with so many perennials, shrubs and trees demanding full sun to perform. However, the spring and fall shade garden can be full of flowers. Whether under deciduous or evergreen trees, or on the north side of buildings, learn how to best fill your shady places with beautiful foliage and flowers that thrive in these special places throughout the growing year. Realize the potential of these areas for calm, even meditative garden areas. Join **Kathy Hirdler** of *Floribunda Designs* in discovering the joys of shade gardening in our great Northwest.

Renovating Old Fruit Trees

Saturday, March 15 11 a.m. – noon.
reservations required class fee: \$8

Over time, fruit trees can lose vigor or suffer the consequences of neglect. **Ani Gurnee** of *Aulos Design* will explain the benefits of renovating old fruit trees and the best approach and techniques to use in order to achieve added production from your trees.

Beginning Bonsai Workshop

Sunday, March 16 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$86
class size limit: 12 students

Learn the hands-on basics of creating a beautiful bonsai from expert, **Tori Lenze**. Students will learn how to design and transplant a tree and how to use different tools for shaping. Class fee includes all materials including a bonsai pot, plant, soil and screening. Students bring small pruners, scissors and gloves. Additional tools and supplies available for purchase.

What To Do with Spring Prunings

Here's a New Twist!



Saturday, March 22 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$40

Join **Laura Campbell**, renowned wreath weaver, as she guides you through the making of a living chair for your home or garden. Bring your own chair (wood or metal), preferably with an open back or seat and don't forget pruners and gloves! We'll provide the vines and planting infrastructure and with expert guidance you'll weave around the chair creating the "bones" to support your plantings. A little chicken wire and moss provide the "pot." When you're done, stroll the nursery to select and purchase the plants for your new garden chair!

Landscaping with a Purpose

Sunday, March 23 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$8

In the 21st century, gardens and landscapes are called to be more than beautiful spaces filled with color and fragrance. Today's gardens are stormwater facilities that produce renewable and basic resources, prevent erosion, benefit air quality, feed their inhabitants both critters and people and mitigate habitat for wildlife. Come and learn how and why from Certified Low Impact Development specialist **Zsofia Pasztor**, to transform your garden to a modern environment!

Spring Garden Walk

Saturday, March 29 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
reservations requested complimentary

Join **John Christianson** for his first tour of the year through the lovely English style gardens of *La Conner Flats* located next to the nursery. Meet John in front of the schoolhouse then stride over to La Conner Flats to see what plants are showing an inspiring spring display. Waterproof shoes and rain gear are recommended depending on the weather.

January - March Specials

January 1 - 31

House & Conservatory Plants
tropical plants for home or greenhouse
(free replanting with plant and pot
purchase)
25% off

February 14 - 28

Roses
our biggest rose sale of the year
including antique, English, climbing and
drought tolerant rugosa roses
20% off

March 1 - 16

Bare Root
the best selection of the year
fruit, flowering and shade trees, berries,
lilacs and hydrangeas
20% off already low bare root prices

February 1 - 13

Blooming Witch Hazel
our winter favorites
Heather
winter and spring flowering plants
20% off

February 22 - 23

Hellebores
hundreds of our favorite
winter-flowering perennial
20% off (2 days only)

March 17 - 31

Camellias
winter- and spring-flowering beauties
many in bloom!
20% off

Weekly Radio Broadcast

The Garden Show

Sunday Mornings

With John & Mike

AM 660 KAPS • 10:30 am

Mark Your Calendars!

February 5 - 9, 2014

Tickets will be available for purchase in our Garden Store. Call today to reserve your spot on our Flower Buses heading to the show on February 5, 6 and 7; \$53 per person (including ticket to the show).



NORTHWEST
FLOWER & GARDEN
SHOW

CLASSES & EVENTS

Saturday, January 18

Which Path to Take? 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 25

Impressionist Flower & Garden Photography 11:00

Saturday, February 1

Rose Pruning 11:00 am

Wednesday - Sunday, February 5 - 9

Northwest Flower & Garden Show

Saturday, February 22

Winter Festival: A Fascination for Hellebores

Hellebores: A Primer for

Gardeners & Floral Designers 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 23

How To Prune...So You Don't

Have to Prune So Often 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 1

Espalier Pruning 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 2

The Shade Garden 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 15

Renovating Old Fruit Trees 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 16

Basic Bonsai Workshop 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 22

What To Do With Spring Prunings? 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 23

Landscaping with a Purpose 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 29

Spring Walk with John Christianson 1:00 p.m.

Winter Hours
Open Daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Open 'til 6:00 p.m.
starting March 1

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 Chillberg/Cahoun Road.



360-466-3821 • 1-800-585-8200

CHRISTIANSON'S
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