

GARDEN GAZETTE

October - December 2013

John Christianson, Editor

CHRISTIANSON'S Nursery & Greenhouse

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

Applause!



John Christianson stands in the McLean and Best Road Roundabout, built in 2009 and adopted by the Nursery as a volunteer project for plantings and upkeep. (Photo by Sue Phillips, courtesy of La Conner Weekly News, 2010)



Now look at it! John and family stand amid lush growth. Roundabout work parties are the first Tuesday of each month. Call us at 360-466-3821 if you'd like to volunteer. (Photo by Eve Boe, 2013)

The first year they sleep, the next year they creep and the third year they leap! This is Mother Nature's way of establishing beauty and vigor in our wide, wonderful world of trees, shrubs, perennials and ground covers. The first year, plants put out roots to find water and nutrition, so it seems they are sleeping. The second year, they put out more roots and some top growth. The third year, they put out more roots and a much greater show of top growth. Only then do we know they are established and happy growing in their own little piece of earth.

And so it has been in the McLean and Best Road Roundabout. While the Roundabout is still maturing and we have future plans for more color (hoping to plant it densely enough to keep the thistles, shotweed and dandelions from appearing every year according to their scheduled rounds), we have been amazed by the bountiful growth in such a short period of time. When we volunteered to plant and maintain this farmland/heritage garden, we discovered not only the friendliness of Skagit Valley's community of farmers and neighbors but also the importance of holding on to the Valley's history. There is horticultural history with our choice of plants; farming history with the donations of old farm equipment from the Thulens, Wylies and LeFebbers; and tourism history with tulips from Washington Bulb adding additional beauty during the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. When Sue Phillips took the first picture with John standing among the farm implements and initial plantings, we really had no idea what to expect the next few years. This year's picture taken by Eve Boe shows Mother Nature's rush to populate a green and prosperous earth. And we are so happy with the many personal comments of appreciation from those who use the Roundabout and also from the waves and honks from people who see us weeding, deadheading, watering and feeding the plants, as they sail by with smiles on their faces. Oh, and the children in the second picture are our own little masterpieces in time: our daughter Emma and our grandchildren McCormick ... Maeve, Nora and Ian, all of whom have grown considerably since the garden was planted. In fact, Nora was yet to be born. It serves us well to applaud Mother Nature. Life is so very good.

Toni Christianson

Holiday Open House and Art's Alive!

November 2nd & 3rd

Festivities fill Christianson's on the first weekend in November: at least six local artists and their works, live music, an inspiring class, cheeses and apple cider served from our antique cider press. It's our Holiday Open House with our gift store, Primrose, dressed up in special finery for the season and joining in Art's Alive!, the celebration of the arts held throughout the La Conner area. Most of these events at Christianson's are happening from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Artist Appearances / Artwork on Display

Jim Warren, woodworker
(Saturday)

Steve and Carol Bryant, driftwood and iron yard art
(Saturday and Sunday)

Laura Campbell, wreaths
(Saturday and Sunday)

Richard Nash, Northwest fine artist
(Saturday and Sunday)

Sharyn Sowell, paintings and hand-cut silhouettes (Saturday and Sunday)



Other Special Events

Class: Be inspired to design winter-interest containers with **Kathy Hirdler** on Saturday at 11 a.m. (see Page 3 for details).

Musicians Laurel Bliss and John Clark will play old-time, Cajun and bluegrass music (Saturday).

Samish Bay Cheese offers tastings and specialty cheeses for sale (Saturday).

Apple cider and homemade molasses cookies will be offered fresh from our antique cider press (Saturday).

Primrose: Lost in Wonderland

The holidays are about love, laughter and losing yourself in the comfort of home. Whether you throw your doors open to grand parties, welcome a few guests for an intimate dinner or wrap up in a quilt to read a good book, we can help with ideas for decorating, entertaining and gift-giving. With a huge selection of antique quilts from Europe and winter-white coverlets from America, vintage pillow shams, frosted rose hips and wreaths, paperwhites, and candles scented with ginger and bayberry, you are sure to create a layered look, a warm and cozy refuge for family. If you dress with an eye toward the unusual, you will find vintage apparel in velvets, silks and woolens ... from long cotton union suits to glamorous opera coats. And our classic Christmas tree ornaments and mantle and centerpiece decorations are destined to become your children's and grandchildren's favorites to be handed down through generations. Come to enjoy and explore, but expect to lose yourself in the Wonderland that is Primrose.



Abbie Kunch Photography

Holiday Tea and More: November 30

Saturday, November 30, is a special day at Christianson's Nursery and we hope you will be part of our festivities:

Eighteenth Annual Holiday Tea: Noon – 5 p.m.

John and Toni Christianson extend their appreciation to customers with this complimentary Holiday Tea to celebrate the start of the holiday season. Come enjoy tea, cider and assorted delicacies in our 1888 Schoolhouse, decorated with a forest theme, candlelight and the live music of autoharpist **Bob Harper** and violinist **Dennis Burkhardt**. We have four seatings; make your reservations today for what has become a Valley tradition.

Donations will benefit Friendship House in Mount Vernon.

Arrival of Father Christmas: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Father Christmas will be in his red sleigh nestled among the trees in our South Greenhouse. He is excited to greet children of all ages and listen to their Christmas wishes. Come in your holiday finest and bring your cameras to take your own keepsake photos.

Holiday Wreath-making Classes: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Deck the halls with ease by using our wreath-making machine and getting the practical and inspiring help of designer **Karen Harper**. These are one-hour classes (starting at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.). We provide a delightful array of greens (sold by the pound); feel free to bring your own. The cost of one wreath form is included in the class fee. Wear warm clothing and bring your own pruners and gardening gloves. Reservations are required; class fee is \$5.

Christianson's Autumn & Winter Calendar

Fresh Cider Pressing: Come enjoy fresh cider from our antique press, Saturday, October 5, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., during the Festival of Family Farms weekend.

Shrubs & Trees for Fall & Winter

Saturday, October 12 11 a.m. – noon
reservations required class fee: \$5

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 pruning tips to enhance seasonal beauty.



Fall Color Walk

Sunday, October 20 1 – 2 p.m.
reservations requested complimentary

Join **John Christianson** to enjoy and learn about the fabulous fall colors of leaves and berries in our display gardens and at the 11-acre English Garden of *La Conner Flats* adjoining the Nursery.

Following the walk, plan to have **High Tea at the Granary** at *La Conner Flats*. This delightful tea features sandwiches, scones, fruit and dessert. Space is limited; call 360-840-1163 for reservations (\$24 per person).

Dramatic Designs: Winter Containers

Saturday, November 2 11 a.m. – noon
reservations required class fee: \$5

As part of our Art's Alive! festival (see Page 2), **Kathy Hirdler** of *Floribunda Designs* will share her flair for artful plant combinations in a demonstration class on containers for winter display. Kathy will discuss design tips, plant and pot choices and ongoing care. Using colorful foliage, stems, berries and flowers, she will create two containers for a long seasonal show.

Conifer Walk with John Christianson

Saturday, November 9 1 – 2 p.m.
reservations requested complimentary

Needles, cones and awesome bark; majestic heights and sprawling ground covers: Conifers add so much variety to our year-round gardens. Join **John Christianson** to enjoy and learn about these great evergreens in our display

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

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Bonsai for Beginners

Sunday, November 10 1 – 2:30 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$5

Find out how easy it is to get started with bonsai with the help of **Tori Lenze**, longtime bonsai grower with the *Mount Vernon Manor Bonsai Society*. Tori will discuss the basics of pruning, wiring, repotting and the tools involved in creating a tree in miniature that has its own personality.

Gardening with Wet Soils

Saturday, November 16 11 a.m. – noon
reservations required class fee: \$5

You may think of wet areas in your garden or country acreage as a problem, but they can be some of the most ornamental treasures and hospitable habitats of your property. **Ani Gurnee** of *Aulos Design* will share inspiration for plants, site preparation and maintenance, whether you would like to create the impression of a wandering water course, a meadow, a woody nook or a bed of perennials.

Independent Wreath Making

December 1 - 24 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
reservations required complimentary

Beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving, two wreath-making machines will be available in our South Greenhouse every day. Wire rings and greenery are available for purchase, or you may bring your own. Invite your garden club, family and friends to enjoy a creative time together, spreading holiday cheer.

Swans and Snow Geese

Swans: Sunday, December 8 1 p.m.
Snow geese: Saturday, December 14 11 a.m.
reservations required class fee: \$5

Wildlife biologist **Martha Jordan** returns to Christianson's to present her hugely popular talk about the trumpeter and tundra swans of the Skagit Valley, and this year she follows it up a week later with a presentation on the snow geese that also winter in the Valley. Make your reservations early!

October - December Specials

October 1 – 17

Conifer Sale

tall and dwarf evergreens, including spruce, fir, cypress, pine, juniper
25% off

November 1 – 30

Roses

end-of-season sale
hundreds of bushes from which to choose
50% off

November 15 – December 1

Camellias

winter- and spring-flowering Camellias in bud or bloom
1-gallon to 5-gallon sizes
20% off

October 18 – 31

Hedging Sale

laurel, boxwood, photinia, Japanese holly, Leyland cypress, privet and arborvitae
25% off

November 1 – 14

Ground Covers

kinnickinnick, ivy, juniper, salal, Cotoneaster, Vinca, Pachysandra and Euonymus
25% off

December 2 – 31

Christmas Holly

traditional English holly plus many rare and uncommon varieties
1-gallon to 6-foot sizes
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 starting December 15. Call today to reserve your spot on our Flower Buses heading to the show on February 5, 6 and 7; \$52 per person (including ticket to the show).



NORTHWEST
FLOWER & GARDEN
SHOW

CLASSES & EVENTS

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Fresh Cider Pressing 12:30 – 2 p.m.
during the Festival of Family Farms

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High Tea at the Granary, La Conner Flats 2 p.m.

Saturday, November 2

Dramatic Designs for Winter Containers 11 a.m.

Saturday, November 2 & 3

Art's Alive! and Holiday Open House

Saturday, November 9

Conifer Walk with John Christianson 1 p.m.
High Tea at the Granary, La Conner Flats 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 10

Bonsai for Beginners 1 p.m.

Saturday, November 16

Gardening with Wet Soils 11 a.m.

Saturday, November 30

Arrival of Father Christmas 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Holiday Wreath Making 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
18th Annual Holiday Tea noon – 5 p.m.

December 1 – 24

Independent Wreath Making 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 8

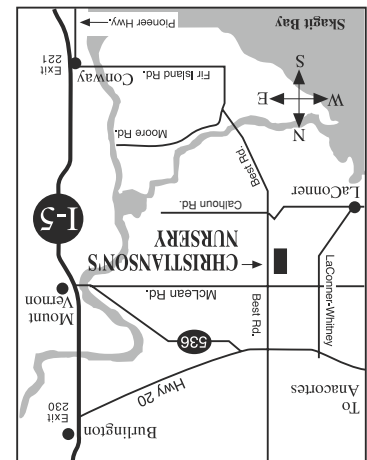
Swans of the Skagit 1 p.m.

Saturday, December 14

Snow Geese of the Skagit 11 a.m.

Hours
Open Daily 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Beginning November 3
Open until 5:00 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 Chillberg/Cahoun Road.



360-466-3821 • 1-800-585-8200

CHRISTIANSON'S
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