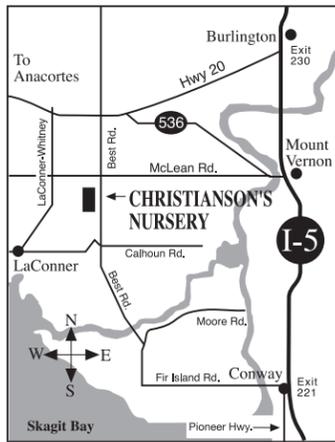


360-466-3821 • 1-800-585-8200

CHRISTIANSON'S

Nursery & Greenhouse

15806 Best Road • Mount Vernon, WA 98273
www.christiansonnursery.com



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.

Winter Hours:
Open Daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Daily, till 6:00 p.m. starting March 1)

GARDEN GAZETTE

January – March 2015

John Christianson, Editor

CHRISTIANSON'S

Nursery & Greenhouse

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

Springs Promise



And so the cycle begins again. It is spring, with its wonderful blossoms and new green growth dancing across the season's calendar. If you blink you might miss the profusion of color and fragrance, but spring's flowers follow in the same exact progression so we can always watch for our favorites. After the lilacs come the peonies and after the peonies come the early lily of the valley and so on and so on and there is magic in the relentless succession of nature even though spring's blossoms are so delicate and transient. Spring is a time of constant change and, for the gardener, it is a time to dream of limitless possibilities. Optimism is, after all, the watchword for enthusiastic gardeners and, no matter what happened last year, it is time to begin again. The garden is all promise as we come out of hibernation looking for the first signs of spring.

Our mother toured her garden almost daily this time of year looking for winter survivors. She would bundle up in her heavy coat, wool scarf and gloves, pull on her rubber boots and always walk the same pathway around her garden. Even though she kept no written record of where she had planted things, she always knew what she was looking for as she pulled away mulches of leaves and evergreen branches hoping to find returning plant life. As a child I remember her announcing at dinner that buds on our Mount Fuji cherry were swelling, or that fragrant Parma violets were just beginning to bloom or the blossoms of her schlippenbachii were expanding. I was very young when I first started listening to her ramblings about gardening and the only impression I had was that gardening made her very happy. My experience with plant life at that time was limited and specific. I definitely had no concept of gardens or landscapes and my earliest memories of plants came from hands on experience. I knew what pussywillows were because I liked to pet the velvety smooth catkins. I knew about lawn daisies because my sister and I would sit in our sunny front yard and tie the stems into circlets for our hair. I also recognized hollyhocks that bloomed later in the season because our father would make hollyhock ballerinas in all the lovely hollyhock colors and we would put them on our nightstands to dream about as we slept. All the other horticultural appreciations came along in due time as I started to notice the greater picture of our garden and the gardens of friends and relatives. Now, I too look forward to walking through the garden in early spring, looking for all the signs that the cycle of life has indeed begun again. And, it also makes me very happy.

~Toni Christianson

Reprinted from January – February 2000 Garden Gazette

Flower Buses to the Northwest Flower & Garden Show



NORTHWEST
FLOWER & GARDEN
SHOW

This year, the Northwest Flower and Garden Show takes place February 11 - 15. 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 11, 12 and 13. The cost of a combination show ticket and bus ride is \$52. 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, gifts and garden antiques we have for sale at our commercial booth #2128/2227.

January – March 2015

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Garden Gazette

January - March Specials

January 1-31
House & Conservatory Plants
tropical plants for home or greenhouse
(tree reporting with plant & pot purchase)
25% off

February 1 - 15
Blooming Witch Hazel
our winter favorites
20% off

February 28 - March 1
Roses
biggest Rose Sale of the year! Including
antique, English, climbing and drought-
tolerant rugosa roses
20% off

March 2 - 15
Bare Root
best selection of the year
fruit, flowering and shade trees, berries,
hills and hydrangeas
20% off already low bare-root prices

March 16 - 31
Camellias
winter- and spring-flowering beauties -
many in bloom!
20% off

February 11 - 15, 2015
Tickets will be available for purchase
at our Garden Store (\$17 for early
bird tickets and \$22 during the show).
Call today to reserve your spot on our
Flower Buses, heading to the show on
February 11, 12 and 13 (\$52 pp).

Mark Your Calendars!



Weekly Radio Broadcast
The Garden Show
AM 660 KAPS • 10:30 a.m.

Stay in Touch
Website: www.christiansonnursery.com
Garden Notes: Our monthly emailed newsletter
http://www.christiansonnursery.com/whats-
happening/newsletters/
Facebook: Like us on our website
Pinterest: http://www.pinterest.com/christiansonnursery/

Saturday, January 24
Demystifying Food Forests 11 a.m.

Saturday, January 31
Terrariums: Creating Miniature Worlds 11 a.m.

Saturday, February 7
Growing Giant Pumpkins 11 a.m.

Wednesday - Sunday, February 11 - 15
Northwest Flower & Garden Show

Saturday, February 21
What Is All The Buzz About? 11 a.m.

Sunday, February 22
Rose Pruning 1 p.m.

Sunday, February 22
Renovating Old Fruit Trees 1 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, February 28 - March 1
Winter Festival: A Fascination For Hellebores
A Glorious Profusion of Hellebores 11 a.m.

Saturday, March 7
Raised Beds 11 a.m.

Saturday, March 14
Apps & Snaps for iPhone and iPad Gardeners 11 a.m.

Saturday, March 21
Pruning Ornamental Trees & Shrubs 1 p.m.

Saturday, March 21
Starting, Planting & Staking Dahlias Made Easy 11 a.m.

Saturday, March 28
Basic Fruit Tree Pruning 1 p.m.

Saturday, March 28
Species Rhododendrons 11 a.m.

Saturday, March 28
Spring Walk with John Christianson 1 p.m.

CLASSES & EVENTS

A Fascination for Hellebores

Christianson's Eighth Annual Winter Festival: February 28 - March 1

On Saturday, February 28, at 11 a.m., guest speaker **Katie Miller** of Skagit Gardens will present *A Glorious Profusion of Hellebores*

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 speaker Katie Miller of Skagit Gardens, who will present the different types, culture, and breeding of Hellebores. She will also discuss their history as garden plants and the best varieties to use in gardens and containers.



Christianson's Winter & Spring Calendar

Demystifying Food Forests

Saturday, January 24 11 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee: \$8

Food Deserts turned into Food Forests Trees and Shrubs can give us more than pretty foliage. Join Certified Sustainable Landscape Designer, **Zsofia Pasztor** and learn how to transform a landscape into a beautiful and productive, layered perennial food system for increased abundance and food security.

Terrariums: Crafting Miniature Worlds Under Glass

Saturday, January 31 11 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee: \$8

Learn how to create an artful collage of natural materials to make a living world in a container. Demonstrating various styles of terrarium craft, **Kathy Hirdler** of *Floribunda Designs* will inspire you to make your own indoor displays. Using a variety of found or purchased plants and materials these tiny environments can be a way to express yourself as well as bringing a bit of nature into your home.



Growing Giant Pumpkins

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

Champion pumpkin grower, **Phil Renninger** will help you get your giant pumpkins off to a roaring good start. Learn about early season protection, pruning, fertilizing, watering and overall care. Seeds available!

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

The Power of Rocks

Saturday, February 7 1 - 2 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$8

Rocks are the key element in a Japanese-inspired garden and are unmatched in evoking powerful scenic effects. In this class, **Hans Wressnigg** of *NIWA Japanese-inspired Landscapes* presents basic lessons on the art of rock setting. Topics include selection and application of rocks, recognizing shapes and energy, and principles of rock setting.

What Is All The Buzz About?

Saturday, February 21 11 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee \$8

Most of you know about the plight of bees but do you know you can host a non-stinging native bee in your own yard? Our orchard mason bee is a hard working spring pollinator that is safe to have around kids and pets. **Missy Anderson**, King County Master Gardener speaker and owner of *Rent Mason Bees*, will be here to teach all she knows about these pollinators: hosting, proper care in all seasons, and healthy propagating. Come join us and learn interesting facts about these flying friends.



Rose Pruning

Saturday, February 21 1 - 2 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$8

Learn the tried and true techniques for pruning roses. **John Christianson** 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.



Christianson's Winter & Spring Calendar - continued



Renovating Old Fruit Trees

Sunday, February 22 1 - 2 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$8

Over time, fruit trees can lose vigor or suffer the consequences of neglect. Certified Arborist, **Christina Pfeiffer** 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.

A Glorious Profusion of Hellebores

Saturday, February 28 11 a.m. - noon
reservations requested complimentary

As part of Christianson's Nursery Winter Festival, Hellebore expert **Katie Miller** of *Skagit Gardens* will present the different types, culture, and breeding of Hellebores. She will also discuss their history as garden plants and the best varieties to use in gardens and containers.

Raised Beds

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

Using raised beds in the garden is a great way to organize and maintain your garden in areas with poor soils and drainage. Master Gardener **Dave Buchan** will discuss the benefits of raised beds, design considerations and construction and maintenance techniques for beds that will last many years.

Apps and Snaps for iPhone and iPad Gardeners

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

Expert photographers, **John and Kathy Willson** of *Swede Hill Dahlia & Sunflower Farm* will teach you how to organize and extend your creative vision for flowers and gardens with the use of just one "easy to master" app.



Pruning Ornamental Trees & Shrubs

Saturday, March 14 1 - 2 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$8

Judicious and skilled pruning will help keep your trees and shrubs healthy and in good form. **Ani Gurnee** of *Aulos Design* will show you tried and true pruning techniques to get the best results.

Starting, Planting and Staking Dahlias Made Easy

Saturday, March 21 11 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee: \$8

Learn how to grow floriferous dahlias from tubers, cuttings and seeds using inexpensive grow lights and propagation mats. **John and Kathy Willson** of *Swede Hill Dahlia & Sunflower Farm* will demonstrate fool proof methods for getting your dahlia tubers off to a great start for amazing summer blooms.

Basic Fruit Tree Pruning

Saturday, March 21 1 - 2 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$8

In order to get the best fruit production, different varieties of fruit trees require different approaches to pruning. **Ani Gurnee** of *Aulos Design* will show you the tried and true techniques used in order to maximize fruit production and eliminate problems down the road.

Species Rhododendrons: These Are Not Your Fathers Rhodies!

Saturday, March 28 11 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee: \$8

Bob Zimmermann of *Chimacum Woods* will explore the distinctly different world of species rhododendrons. These plants don't look like the rhodies most of us are used to. They offer a broad range of leaf shapes, colors and patterns. Bob, has been raising species rhodies from seed for forty years and has just returned from his fifth rhody exploration in China. He will describe and show pictures of some of the most interesting species, including many available at the Nursery.



Spring Garden Walk with John Christianson

Saturday, March 28 1 - 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.