

GARDEN GAZETTE

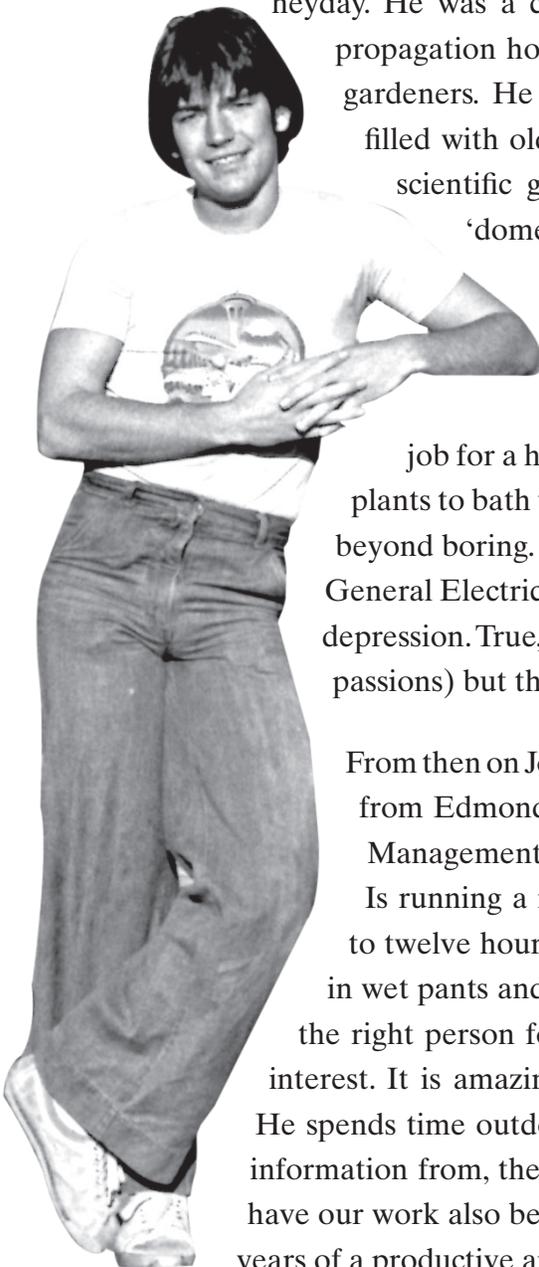
Winter 2018

Toni Christianson, *Editor*

CHRISTIANSON'S Nursery & Greenhouse

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

What does an ambitious and energetic fifteen-year-old boy do when he has a job he loves? Well....John did love his very first job working at Saxe Floral and Greenhouse during this famous Seattle nursery's heyday. He was a carry-out who also stocked plants, sterilized soil, worked in their plant propagation house, nailed wooden flats together and otherwise hung out with seasoned gardeners. He enjoyed both their companionship and their conversation, which was filled with old garden lore and legends from personal stories in addition to the latest scientific garden news. So, what did he do? He quit this job and took a job in 'domestics' with J.C. Penney. Not because he thought he would like it better but because his pay went from \$2.25 to \$3.50 an hour. With that one decision he learned a momentous life-changing lesson. At Penney's he was responsible for stocking sheets, towels and small appliances. I can only imagine how unhappy he was. Overnight he lost the perfect job for a high-energy kid who preferred outdoors to indoors, running to walking, and plants to bath towels. And, the conversation in domestics was...well, the conversation was beyond boring. It was about thread count, polyester versus cotton and KitchenAid versus General Electric. Enough to throw an otherwise curious and enthusiastic young man into a depression. True, he had more money to spend on skiing, music and photography (his other passions) but that definitely did not make the change even remotely worthwhile.



From then on John took every horticulture class his high school offered and later graduated from Edmonds Community College with a degree in Horticulture and Retail Nursery Management. The result is a happy man making a reasonable living doing what he loves. Is running a nursery really work? Not for the right person. A man who can work ten to twelve hours a day, seven days a week, often in blowing winds and pelting rain, often in wet pants and wet shoes with holes in the sides, is the right person. And John has been the right person for thirty-eight years, without missing a beat...no burnout and no waning interest. It is amazing what happens when a person chooses a career they find compelling. He spends time outdoors not only with plants, but also sharing information with, and gaining information from, the people he likes best...fellow gardeners. We should all be so fortunate to have our work also be our passion and our pleasure. So John, my wish for you is for many more years of a productive and happy life doing exactly what you love....gardening!

Toni Christianson



A Fascination for Hellebores



Christianson's Twelfth Annual Winter Festival

Saturday and Sunday, February 24 and 25 ~ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Keynote Speaker **Katie Miller**, Saturday at 11 a.m.

Here in the Pacific Northwest the blooming of hellebores is a favorite late winter reminder that spring is right around the corner. Hellebores are perennial and largely evergreen. Their flowers provide color and interest in the shade garden when other plants are dormant.

Hellebore's most impressive feature is their five-petal bowl-shaped flowers which appear from late winter into spring in colors as diverse as apricot, yellow, green, silver-blue, slate, dusky pink, maroon and white. Some varieties feature double-petalled flowers, giving them a nostalgic rose-like quality.

Kicking off Saturday morning is a creative workshop with Seattle artist, **Kate Alarcón**. Pre-register and create three botanically correct crepe paper hellebore blossoms. Next, enjoy a discussion by Keynote Speaker and local Hellebore expert, **Katie Miller**, from Skagit Gardens to learn why there is no longer a need to wait for spring to enjoy flowers.

Our Hellebore offerings will pack our Propagation house to the brim with a beautiful display through the weekend of exciting new varieties, such as 'Jesko' and 'Marlon' along with tried and true favorites like 'Anna's Red'. Enjoy a lovely weekend discovering varieties to keep your garden blooming throughout winter!

It's Bare Root Season

January through March is bare root season at Christianson's and that means it's time to save on the plants you plan on adding to your garden this year. Many plants (fruit, flowering and shade trees) are available as bare root selections.

After dormant plants are dug up, growers wash the soil off the roots and the plants are packed in sawdust (to keep the roots moist) once they arrive at the Nursery. This type of system works well for many woody-based plants, like fruit and nut trees, Hydrangeas and lilacs, cane fruit and some herbaceous edibles such as strawberries, asparagus and rhubarb.

Planting bare root stock comes with several advantages: Bare root plants typically cost far less than container-grown selections and traditional balled and burlap (B&B), and without the cost of soil and a container, the savings are passed on to you! Another advantage bare root stock has over container-grown is its stronger and wider root system that adapts more quickly in our native soil. Ask one of our Nursery experts about how to properly condition and plant a bare root tree or shrub while you're here.

Mark Your Calendars for the 2018 Northwest Flower and Garden Show!



**NORTHWEST
FLOWER & GARDEN
SHOW**

Seattle's Northwest Flower & Garden Show takes place February 7 - 11, 2018. Tickets will be available for purchase at our Garden Store starting December 15 (ticket prices for adults are \$19 for early bird tickets and \$24 during the dates of the show, and \$7 for children).

Gather your friends and family to ride our "Flower Buses" and enjoy going to the show without the stress of driving and parking. The Flower Buses leave the Nursery on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 7, 8, and 9, at 8:30 am and return at approximately 6:00 pm. The cost of a combination show ticket and bus ride is \$54. Call the Nursery to make your Flower Bus reservations (360-466-3821).

Christianson's Winter & Spring Calendar

Mason Bees:

Early Spring Pollinators

Saturday, January 6 11 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee: \$8



Mason bees are gentle, highly efficient, solitary, native pollinators, unlike their honeybee-haven cousins. **Olivia Shangrow**, a biologist working for Rent Mason Bees (a Washington based company that rents bees and bee houses to backyard gardeners and orchardists) teaches about different kinds of bees in Washington state and offers an opportunity to rent mason bee kits on-site. Learn the benefits of Mason bees and how your support affects the food that ends up in our grocery stores and gardens. Kids are welcome!

Deer Resistant Gardens

Saturday, January 13 11 a.m. - noon.
reservations required class fee: \$8

La Conner based Private Lands and Wildlife Conflict Manager, **Cole Caldwell**, presents information on Black-tailed Deer and home gardening stewardship. Covering a wide variety of topics ranging from home gardens to deer damage in urban and rural environments, expect useful tips on adaptive and integrated methods for minimizing damage and restricting deer access.

Zentangle Garden - Take Two

Saturday, January 20 10 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee: \$15

 Come grow a Zentangle garden on tan triangular paper using black, brown and white ink. Learn the steps from **Sara Harlan** for creating a beautiful botanical artwork and a peaceful mind. In this 2-hour class, we will explore Zentangle patterns different from those in our September class so Zentangle veterans and Zentangle novices alike are sure to pick up new skills.

Adapting Japan's Design Traditions for your Garden

Saturday, January 27 10 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee: \$15

How can you create a garden that reflects the quiet beauty and naturalness of the Japanese design tradition? It starts with an understanding of the most fundamental design principles and techniques and the ability to assess and respond creatively to your garden site's potentials and challenges. Rather than forcing pre-conceived clichés into a garden space, **Hans Wressnigg** of NIWA Japanese-inspired Landscapes, LLC will demonstrate how you can develop your garden from the inside out.

Creating an Indoor Succulent Dish Garden

Saturday, February 3 11 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee: \$8

Add life and beauty to your interiors with this no fuss house plant! **Karen Summers**, of the Cascade Cactus and Succulent Society reviews what types of succulents will thrive as she demonstrates how to create an indoor succulent dish garden. Learn basic care for cacti and succulents even in the lichened Pacific Northwest.

Designing Gardens with Flamboyant Dahlias

Saturday, February 3 1 - 2 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$8

Planning and planting gardens with dahlias, the queen of cut flowers, is about creating a floral picture that has impact and drama and is floriferous throughout the whole summer season. Join **John and Kathy Willson**, long time owners of Swede Hill Dahlia Sunflower Farm for ideas, inspiration and instruction on how to cultivate dahlia plantings which bring boundless joy to your garden.

How to Prune Spring - Blooming Shrubs

Saturday, February 17 11 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee: \$8

Pruning flowering shrubs is an essential gardening technique to keep them colorful, healthy and well-shaped. Horticulturist, **Christina Pfeiffer** demonstrates the what, how and when of pruning shrubs that bloom between March and May, from azaleas to viburnums. This class will help you make sense of how to prune your favorite spring blooming shrubs.

Crepe Paper Hellebore Workshop

Saturday, February 24 9 - 10:45 a.m.
pre-payment required class fee: \$60

 Craft magnificent, botanically-correct crepe paper flowers with instruction by artist **Kate Alarcón**. A unique and wondrous process is full of miracles with results that are nothing short of breathtaking. In this one-hour and 45-minute workshop you'll learn basic paper flower construction and a versatile method for hand-coloring petals. Although we'll focus on a single flower in class, you'll receive supplies to make 3 flowers. All materials and tools provided. Limit 10 students. \$60

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

March Spotlights Our Expert Staff at the Nursery...

So Many Roses, So Little Time

Christianson's Rose Buyer, Nancy Stewart

Saturday, March 3 11 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee: \$8



The rose is America's most popular flower and is also one of the very oldest in cultivation. There are thousands of different rose varieties to lure us with their history and fragrance. Take notes from our rose buyer, **Nancy Stewart**, on varieties we have in stock that are fragrant, disease-resistant, easy care and are also suited well for the Pacific Northwest.

Ergonomic Gardening

Christianson's Gift Buyer, Eve Boe

Saturday, March 3 1 - 2 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$8

Gardening is a great alternative to traditional exercise. It requires strength and flexibility. Unfortunately, many of us plunge into these tasks with great enthusiasm and unconditioned bodies, ending up sore afterwards, or worse, injured. Learn the importance of warming up, proper lifting, ergonomic usage of tools and cooling down from former athletic trainer and massage therapist, **Eve Boe**, to produce a healthier you in the garden!

Design a Garden Chair Planter

Christianson's Basket Designer, Laura Campbell

Saturday, March 10 10 a.m. - noon
(in the Potting Shed)
pre-payment required class fee: \$85

Just because you have old furniture in your backyard doesn't mean you can't still use it as a delightful focal point in your garden. Learn to transform an old chair into garden art with basket designer and wreath weaver, **Laura Campbell**. Class lasts for two-hours and only has room for eight participants. Bring your own seat less, open back chair (wood or metal), pruners and gloves. We'll provide the vines, planting infrastructure and expert guidance. Ornamental plants for sale at the Nursery.



Landscaping Basics: Right Plant, Right Place

Christianson's Staff Member, Molly Calvin

Saturday, March 10 11 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee: \$8

Do you have a problem area in your yard and would like to get advice from a Nursery Landscape professional? Environmental Horticulturist and Owner of Every bit Handcrafted, **Molly Calvin**, will select three "problems" submitted by class participants and share possible solutions in an interactive class designed to help you solve your landscaping problems. Submit image and problem description for consideration via social media, email or our Garden Store.

Colorful Plants for the Shade Garden

Owner, Nurseryman, John Christianson

Saturday, March 17 11 a.m. - noon
reservations required class fee: \$8

A shade garden isn't doomed to dreary, colorless choices. Flowers for shade are still more limited than those for sun, but foliage colors have exploded. And oh, the possibilities! Today we can spice up our shade gardens with bright lime, orange, pink, red, burgundy, purple, chocolate, near-black and every shade in between. **John Christianson** presents examples of plants with tolerance from light to deep shade that provide foliage or flower interest in the darkest corners of your yard.

Edible Ornamentals

Christianson's Hard Goods & Pottery Buyer,

Lily Hirdler, CPH

Saturday, March 17 1 - 2 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$8

Many of us know the pleasure of harvesting our own fruits and vegetables, but the variety of botanical edibles reach far beyond the more commonly cultivated. Certified Professional Horticulturist, **Lily Hirdler**, prompts us to learn about a huge selection of unusual and beautiful ornamental plants which provide nutritive and culinary value. If it sounds a little like Urban Foraging, you're right!

Ferns; 'the Princess of the woods'

Christianson's Houseplant & Grasses Buyer,

Eric Andrews

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

Ferns are some of the easiest care perennials around. They require minimum upkeep other than a spring tidy. So, why are they an underused plant in a gardener's landscaping? Houseplant and Grasses Buyer, **Eric Andrews**, brings awareness to their versatility and the many varieties of these highly adaptable fronds and teaches about their easy care-especially in a winter garden.

Gardening with Japanese Maples

Christianson's Staff Member, Katheryn Shiohira

Saturday, March 24 1 - 2 p.m.
reservations required class fee: \$8

Elegant, colorful Japanese Maple trees are so easy to grow they deserve a special place in every garden. Japanese Maple aficionado, **Katheryn Shiohira**, helps you discover the perfect variety for the conditions in your landscape. Learn through demonstration the fundamentals of pruning with patience for health and aesthetic beauty.

March Spotlights Our Expert Staff at the Nursery...Continued

Create Your Own Hanging Basket

Christianson's Staff Member, **Becky Paulik, C.D.F.H.**

Saturday, March 31 10 a.m.- noon
(in the Potting Shed)

pre-payment required class fee: \$55

Hanging baskets are a great way to enjoy your favorite plants. Basket designer, **Becky Paulik**, coaches you through each step of the planting process to transform a 12" wire and coir-lined hanging basket to a living sculpture to be admired throughout the summer. Choose from cool-weather, pre-selected flowering and trailing plants. Limit 10

Tiny House, Tiny Landscape

Christianson's Staff Member, **Kerstin Andersen**

Saturday, March 31 1-2 p.m.

reservations required class fee: \$8

While the structures of tiny homes often measure less than 300 square feet, the tiny house movement isn't necessarily about sacrifice. Rub elbows with Tiny House Builder, **Kerstin Andersen**, as she recounts her personal journey including the "Basis of the build" and glean creative ideas for tiny landscaping.

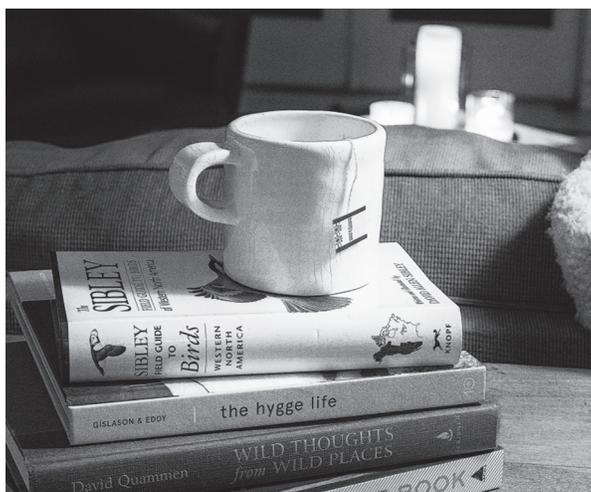


View the World Through Rose-Colored Glasses

Have you been thinking about which roses you will add to the garden next spring? We have and encourage you to start planning!

Our rose buyer, **Nancy Stewart**, is already mapping out hundreds of roses to bring in for the winter of 2018. "We are making a strong effort to carry the range and depth in rose varieties with many suggested by author Nita Jo Rountree in her book, *Growing Roses in the Pacific Northwest*," states Stewart.

Be sure to study our 2018 Rose List insert to discover over 50 new or returning varieties totaling our beautiful collection to over 450 varieties of roses!



John Holtman



January 2 - 14

50% off all Holiday Items

with the exception of antiques & feather trees

January 15 - 31

'A Sale for Two Seasons'

20 to 50% off selected Fall and Winter items

Our bi-annual 'Sale for Two Seasons' begins January 15th! Save 20 to 50% off selected fancy goods, such as fall and winter-themed napkins, soaps and lotions, ladies hats and gloves, books, candles, home decor, and much more!

Primrose will be joyfully welcoming the arrival of the new year in hygge style. What's hygge? Loosely translated, the word 'hygge' ("hue-guh") means "coziness" but it's much more than that. It's about feeling cozy from the inside out, creating warm and inviting living spaces, and letting comfort, contentment and gratitude permeate everything in our life, no matter the season. Here in Primrose we have always had a deep fondness for all things cozy, but we recently brought in a lovely little book called *The Hygge Life* by Gunnar Karl Gislason and Jody Eddy and suddenly there was a tangible description for the philosophy we hold so dear. Here's an excerpt from *The Hygge Life*...

Hygge living is the notion that taking care of yourself and those you love fortifies you with an invincible sense of well-being that no amount of snow or endless twilight can temper. Inviting comforting elements into your day-to-day life is the essence of hygge.

Here are just a few examples of 'hygge living essentials' you'll find in Primrose this winter and spring...flannel pajamas, gloves and finger-less mittens, cake and cookie mixes, hot cocoa, tea and mulling spices, puzzles and games, vintage quilts, pillows, books, journals, sketchbooks, candles, and lovely soaps and lotions.

From all of us at Primrose, may your new year be bright and filled with abundant joy and hygge'ness!

Eve Boe

January – March Specials

January 2 – 31

House & Conservatory Plants

tropical plants for home or greenhouse
(free repotting with plant & pot purchase)
25% Off

February 24 - 25

Hellebores

hundreds of our favorite Winter-flowering perennials
20% off (2 days only)

March 1 - 15

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 - 15

Blooming Witch Hazel Heather

our favorite winter and early spring
flowering plants
20% off

February 16 - 28

Roses

our biggest Rose Sale of the year!
antique, English, climbing and drought-tolerant rugosa roses
20% off

March 16 – April 1

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
& 102.1 FM KAPS 10:30 a.m.

CLASSES & EVENTS

Classes are 1 hour unless otherwise noted

Saturday, January 6

Mason Bees: Early Spring Pollinators 11 a.m. – noon

Saturday, January 13

Deer Resistant Gardens 11 a.m. – noon

Saturday, January 20

Zentangle Garden - Take Two 10 a.m. – noon

Saturday, January 27

Adapting Japan's Design Tradition for your Garden 10 a.m. – noon

Saturday, February 3

Creating an Indoor Succulent Dish Garden 11 a.m. – noon

Designing Gardens with Flamboyant Dahlias 1 – 2 p.m.

Saturday, February 17

How to Prune Spring-Blooming Shrubs 11 a.m. – noon

Saturday-Sunday, February 24-25

12th Annual Winter Celebration of Hellebores

Hellebore Display 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Crepe Paper Hellebore Workshop 9 - 10:45 a.m.

Keynote Speaker Katie Miller 11 a.m.

Saturday, March 3

So Many Roses, So Little Time 11 a.m. – noon

Ergonomic Gardening 1 – 2 p.m.

Saturday, March 10

Design a Garden Chair Planter 10 a.m. – noon (Potting Shed)

Landscaping Basics 11 a.m. – noon

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Edible Ornaments 1 – 2 p.m.

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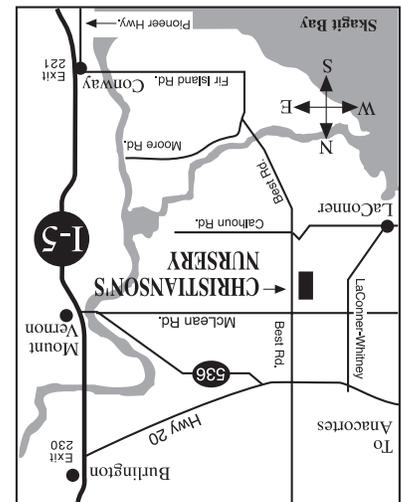
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Create Your Own Hanging Basket 10 a.m. - noon (Potting Shed)

Tiny House, Tiny Landscape 1 – 2 p.m.

Winter Hours:
Open Daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(Daily, till 6 p.m. beginning 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, we're just past the round-about.
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

www.christiansonnursery.com

15806 Best Road • Mount Vernon, WA 98273

CHRISTIANSON'S
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