

GARDEN GAZETTE

April – June 2015

John Christianson, *Editor*

CHRISTIANSON'S Nursery & Greenhouse

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

Anticipation



Every year I promise myself I will not let my favorite season go by without spending some time breathing deeply and enjoying the sights and smells of Spring. Also, every year, after impatiently watching and waiting at the back door for capricious March weather to settle and warm, I finally start to relax and take up other projects and I lose my perceived edge over Mother Nature. Even so, I always know she is out there. I see her restrained leaders of the band: snowdrops, crocuses and primroses...marching us right into the uproar of Spring. However, with settling back into winter projects, I am always caught off-guard when Mother Nature, who has perfect timing, finally decides to pounce right into the middle of all my set aside garden plans. She thereby gets the upper hand while I am left holding a

flat of strawberries that I had tried to plant out a week ago but could not because the ground

was frozen. Add my slow start to my random/abstract method of going about things (even though I have notes from last year and lists for this year) and the result is a season playing catch up where the days seem to hurry by so quickly I cannot recall many of the details. In a few short weeks our gardens will be filled with tender new growth and the most breathtaking color of the year as trees and shrubs, perennials, bulbs and seeds wake to a new season. In obsessing about what needs to be done in the garden I miss out again on the bigger picture which includes those extravagances that make Spring so over the top: like bringing armloads of lilacs and peonies into our home to enjoy close up; or pressing, drying and framing the first hand-picked bouquet from a toddler grandchild just learning to love nature; or even something as simple as trying a new recipe for cream of asparagus soup with just harvested garden-grown asparagus. After all, here it is the middle of March and to look outside it seems like the dead of winter. But we all know the time is coming so get ready for resolute Mother Nature to surprise us any day now with the onset of blissful Spring because, before we know it, it will be time to set out geraniums and look for that first ripe tomato. So take the time to frame that endearing bouquet from that chubby little hand...made even more appealing if there are dandelions or buttercups in the midst of more refined flowers. Mother Nature and the young know the importance of including them all. And listen for the bees in the apple trees. And don't forget naps on the porch at three in the afternoon or hot chocolate (with Baileys and Cream) at sunset. Life is good with a garden.

Toni Christianson

Reprinted from the April-May 2009 Garden Gazette



Tulip Festival Highlights



Art at the Schoolhouse

Friday, April 3 - Sunday, April 26

Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New and returning artists from Stanwood Camano Arts Guild will show their art in our historic Schoolhouse for the eighth season. The Guild's members' art includes many different types; outdoor stained glass garden art, paintings, jewelry, greeting cards, photography, fiber arts and more. This is a must-see stop while touring the picturesque tulip fields of the Skagit Valley.

Judy and Annie's Philly Cheesesteak Sandwiches

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, they will also be offering their award-winning Crab-Shrimp Chowder, crepes and fresh-squeezed lemonade.

Mother's Day at Christianson's

We hope to delight all of your senses when you come to Christianson's Nursery during Mother's Day weekend, May 9th and 10th. The brilliant colors of blooms 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 spring flowers, ferns, ivy and moss tucked in for an instant centerpiece for your table or porch. These tabletop baskets will be available all of April through Mother's Day. 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. And, as always, we will be serving complimentary homemade chocolate chip cookies and coffee.

Mother's Day in Primrose

New to Primrose and for Mother's Day gifting we are excited to be carrying RSVP Kitchen and Hillhouse Naturals. RSVP Kitchen is for the practical Mother who enjoys spending time in the kitchen. With many beautifully designed kitchen implements from RSVP we are especially excited about the herb scissors. With five sharp 3" stainless steel blades for cutting, chopping, or mincing herbs directly into a pan or over a plate for garnishing, these scissors would be a welcome gift for Moms who love to cook with fresh herbs. And for Moms who love pampering, we have gifts from Hillhouse Naturals – a kitchen candle in Mediterranean Fig, a French milled soap in Honeysuckle and Moss, and collections of soaps, lotions and candles in three wonderful scents – Fresh Linen, Cashmere, and French Velvet. Everything in their body care line is enriched with nature's finest ingredients – royal jelly, colloidal oatmeal, milk powder and honey extracts. We also have the newest titles in recipe, garden and interior design books plus the always welcome Mother's Day Gift Certificate. And, we wish Mothers everywhere a very Happy Mother's Day.



We can't behave like people in novels, though, can we?

-Edith Wharton



Abbie Kunch Photography

Second Annual Antique Fair at the Schoolhouse

Saturday, June 20 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, June 21 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

complimentary admission free parking

With Skagit farmland, the Cascades and Mount Baker in the distance, our Rose Garden is the perfect setting for a garden party featuring antiques and vintage collectibles gathered together in our very antique one-room Meadow Schoolhouse and under the 'Big Tent.' We will have both returning and new vendors gathered together for a wonderful weekend of fun and laughter. Come to make new friends with like-minded lovers of the perfect combination...antiques and English rose gardens.

Random Acts of Food

Tessa McLeod will be returning with her amazing menu choices all made from local, seasonal ingredients. She serves her fare from a classic Airstream trailer that fits perfectly with the Schoolhouse setting. But the most amazing part is the food. Last year's favorite was a grilled beet and goat cheese sandwich. Along with her other tried and true items such as burgers and egg sandwiches, we all look forward to her return for the Antique Fair.

A Rosy Day Out: Twelfth Annual Rose Festival

Saturday, June 27

Back by popular demand, keynote speakers **Ciscoe Morris** and **John Christianson** will talk roses again this year! Before Ciscoe we are pleased that **Riz Reyes** will demonstrate creating beautiful floral arrangements with roses and **Tri-Valley Rose Society** will give a class on Sustainable Rose Growing all located in the Big Tent.

Calling All Rosarians

As part of Christianson's Annual Rose Festival, the Tri-Valley Rose Society is hosting its 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: Best in Show, Best Fragrant Rose and 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.

Schedule of Events

- 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. Rose Show in the Schoolhouse
- 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. **Tri-Valley Rose Society** members available for rose advice
- 11 a.m. – noon **Riz Reyes** will demonstrate how to create beautiful floral arrangements with roses.
- 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. **Robyn Swesey** and **Larry Sawyer** of the Tri-Valley Rose Society talk about "Growing Roses Sustainably"
- 2:30 p.m. **Ciscoe Morris & John Christianson** present Favorite Roses and Rose Companions, followed by a Rose Ice Cream Social



Abbie Kunch Photography

Queen Bee Espresso

Mother's Day, Antique Fair &
Rose Festival Weekends

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Queen Bee Espresso returns to satisfy your coffee cravings! Local Barista Tami Roberts will artfully create your coffee concoction to perfection!

It's Time to Plant Pumpkins!

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! The **Fifth Annual Skagit Valley Giant Pumpkin Festival** is set for Saturday, September 26. We'll have great prizes for the pumpkin weigh-off, games and food, music and pony rides – a day not to be missed!



Summer in the Garden: Sips, Savories & Sweets!

Wednesday, June 24, 5 – 8 pm, Christianson's Nursery, 15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon

Join us for a fun evening to benefit the new La Conner Regional Library building project, proudly hosted by Christianson's and presented by the La Conner Library Foundation. Pacific Horticulture Magazine editor and author Lorene Edwards Forkner* will present "We're Better Together – plant combinations, design tips, and unsung heroes of the garden to inspire your summer landscape."

Silent auction proceeds, 10% of all plant sales and 15% of all sales of Lorene's book, *The Timber Press Guide to Vegetable Gardening: Pacific Northwest*, during this event will be donated to the new library project. A special shopping time for attendees the day of the event is 5 – 8 p.m. Tickets at \$50 apiece will be available April 1, 2015 at Christianson's Nursery, online at laconnerlibraryfoundation.org or mail/in person (checks or cash) at the La Conner Library Foundation, 614 Morris Street, La Conner, WA 98257, 360-466-3352. 100 tickets available. Must be 21 years and older to attend.

*Author, speaker and avid gardener/cook, Lorene Edwards Forkner lives and gardens in the Pacific Northwest. She is the author of 5 garden titles including *The Timber Press Guide to Vegetable Gardening: Pacific Northwest*, and *Handmade Garden Projects*, bestselling titles from Timber Press. Lorene is editor of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, a quarterly magazine for West Coast gardeners, and she is passionate about the beautiful, fruitful, and innovative landscapes of our region. Observing nature, digging in the garden, mixing things up in the kitchen, or on the written page—Lorene believes there's always a good story to tell. <http://www.ahandmadegarden.com>

Custom Containers

Laura, Karla and Elisa will be available to plant beautiful custom containers for your terrace, patio or garden. All three have had years of experience and all three are great designers. They know growth habit, sun or shade needs, pleasing color combinations and will always include a slow release fertilizer so, with minimal care, your container will bloom all season if you follow a few tips from them on how to care for planted containers. Bring in your pots or they can help you choose from our large assortment of containers. Then you only need to let them know some basic information about sun or shade and color choices (plus whether there are certain plants you know you want included or some you do not like) and then you can leave them to create a work of art. Custom containers also make great gifts for Mothers or Fathers on their special days. Father's Day containers usually include a selection of tomato and herb plants that can be placed in the sunshine right next to the barbecue. If possible, come in early in the season as it gets busier closer to Mother's Day. Appointments are recommended 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 during our Rose Festival on June 27th and our Pumpkin Festival, September 26th.

Stay in Touch

Website: www.christiansonsnursery.com

Garden Notes: Our monthly emailed newsletter
<http://www.christiansonsnursery.com/whats-happening/newsletters/>

Facebook: Like us on our website

Pinterest: <http://www.pinterest.com/primrosegifts>

Spring Classes

Aeroponics Demonstration

Saturday, April 4 1 – 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 6 4 – 5 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 in your back yard, on your deck or patio or even indoors! With the right equipment, bountiful harvests of healthy fruits and veggies are easily and sustainably grown in small spaces.

Using Plants In A Japanese Garden

Saturday, June 6 11 a.m. - noon

reservations required class fee: \$8

Join **Hans Wressnigg** of *NIWA Japanese-Inspired Landscapes* to learn about the role of plants in Japanese gardens and the selection criteria for seasonal beauty, with emphasis on texture and subtle shades, as well as the structure of woody plants, which are vital for winter beauty and composition.

The Traveling Gardener

Victoria's Butchart Gardens

Saturday, June 6 1 – 2 p.m.

reservations required class fee: \$8

Butchart Gardens is a *National Historic Site of Canada* located on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Join expert photographers **John & Kathy Willson**, for a slide presentation tour of these beautiful grounds. As you take this virtual tour, you'll experience the gardens in all their splendor, learn its history and become inspired.

Clematis Made Easy

Saturday, June 13 11 a.m. - noon

reservations required class fee: \$8

Clemaniac, **Laura Watson**, will demystify the care and pruning of clematis. Learn how to choose a clematis, how to plant it, what the three clematis pruning groups are, which clematis are the easiest to grow and which do well in small gardens and containers. Laura will also recommend good companion plants for clematis (including other interesting vines), discuss kinds of structures clematis like and tell us how to coax clematis to grow into trees and shrubs.



June Bloom Walk with John Christianson

Saturday, June 13 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 in our Schoolhouse Garden; from there you'll meander next door to discover the highlights of the season.

Using Roses in Floral Arrangements

Saturday, June 27 11 a.m. – noon

complimentary

Join **Riz Reyes** as he demonstrates innovative uses of roses in floral arrangements. Learn basic classification of roses, their garden and landscape use and then watch his magic as he concludes with a floral class and demonstration.

Growing Roses Sustainably

Saturday, June 27 1 – 2 p.m.

complimentary

To many gardeners, growing roses organically can seem like an ominous prospect. Join Master Rosarians from the **Tri-Valley Rose Society** 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.



What is one to say about June, the time of perfect young summer, the fulfillment of the promise of the earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will ever fade.

-Gertrude Jekyll

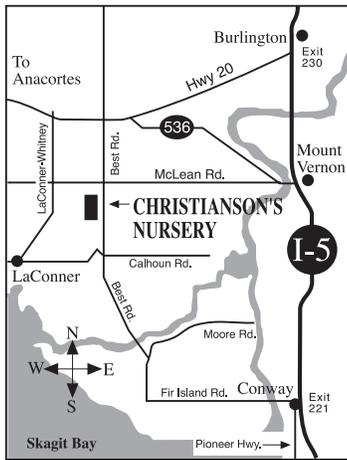


To make your reservations for classes and events, please visit the Nursery or call us at 360-466-3821 or 1-800-585-8200.

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.

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

Spring Specials

April 1 - 16

Magnolias

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

May 1 - 10

Basket Stuffers

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

May 9 - 10

Mother's Day Weekend Special

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

May 22 - 31

Fuchsias

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

June 15 - 28

Perennials

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

April 17 - 30

Rhododendrons and Azaleas

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

May 4 - 10

Geraniums

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

May 11 - 21

Shady Days

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

June 1 - 14

Vines

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

June 29 - July 5

"Lemon" Sale

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

CLASSES & EVENTS

April 3 - 26

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

Saturday, April 4

Aeroponics 1 - 2 p.m.

May 9 - 10

Mother's Day Weekend

Saturday, June 6

Using Plants in the Japanese Garden 11 a.m. - noon
Traveling Gardener 1 - 2 p.m.
Aeroponics 4 - 5 p.m.

Saturday, June 13

Clematis Made Easy 11 a.m. - noon
June Bloom Walk 1 - 2 p.m.

June 20 - 21

2nd Annual Antique Fair At The Schoolhouse
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 27

12th Annual Rose Festival 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Floral Arrangements with Roses 11 a.m. - noon
Growing Roses Sustainably 1 - 2 p.m.
Ciscoe & John Talk Roses 2:30 p.m.

Weekly Radio Broadcast

The Garden Show

Sunday Mornings

With John & Mike

AM 660 KAPS • 10:30 a.m.