

# GARDEN GAZETTE

Summer 2017

Toni Christianson, *Editor*

## CHRISTIANSON'S Nursery & Greenhouse

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

### *My Hubby, the Fashion Icon*



The women in our family always have fun teasing John about his fashion sense. I knew there was a problem when I first met him but it was part of his charm. The charm being, he is too busy enjoying his life to care about his clothes. That enthusiasm for life was very attractive to me. However, this is a man with beautiful blue eyes and dark hair and he was wearing a red orange jacket. A navy or very dark moss green jacket would have been more flattering. And then there were the high school prom pictures I saw of him in a brown tuxedo. It wasn't even a dark, chocolate brown. It was a brick red brown. So, I knew when we were planning our wedding that I would need to stay ahead of the game and make sure he chose a traditional black tuxedo or a classic 'white sport coat' before he could consider another color. He wanted to buy, not rent, because he wanted the challenge of fitting into his wedding tux for each and every anniversary that followed.

It's not that I have high standards as far as current fashion or designer labels. Quite the opposite. However, I do want him to always look his best and, for me, it's more about color choice than anything else. Dressing him has been very easy. He wears Levi 501s most every day of the year. They wear like iron and even though I complain about how distressed they look after about a month of John carrying wet, balled and burlapped root balls, one, two and three gallon plants, hundreds of nursery flats and hanging baskets, crawling around on the ground to check water lines, trapping raccoons, rats and possums, plus climbing trees and clearing out plumbing lines, they still hold their shape and look great on him. I have always wondered as the Levis have softened and faded in the wash, leaving brown and green stains on the upper legs, where does the green come from? Is it chlorophyll from grass stains or is a moss growing on the dirt embedded in the denim? As it turns out, whatever it is, it's in demand. Who would have known that the twenty or so pairs of jeans he owns would become a family treasure?

The Seattle Times ran an article about the very worn and distressed Levis Nordstrom is selling for \$425; complete with brown and green stains! While I've always tried to have at least one pair of softened but not stained Levis for him to wear when he gives garden talks or we go to other important events, I noticed he wore the faded, stained and distressed Levis to our grandson, Michael's graduation this past June. I think he was proud of them. He also wore my favorite dark, mossy green, fourteen-dollar sport coat from a thrift shop in Spokane, along with a blue and white plaid shirt. He looked very handsome; not only because he still fits into his wedding tuxedo but because he was wearing some of his best colors. Now we can't wait to see if he wears his black tuxedo jacket with a dark green V-neck undershirt and his best distressed Levis to our granddaughter Ellen's garden wedding this fall. John is one classy Grandpa.

*Toni Christianson*

# 4th Annual Antique Fair & Vintage Market at Christianson's Nursery

**Friday Night and Saturday, August 11 & 12**

**Four event sites: Schoolhouse, Primrose Antiques & Gifts, Christianson's Nursery and North Meadow Field**

Welcome to our annual Antique Fair & Vintage Market. We are proud to present the Northwest's top dealers showcasing the best in antiques, vintage and collectibles. Our dealers are individually selected for their quality of hard-to-find goods and creative displays.

**Friday Night, August 11th, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

In partnership with Hellam's Vineyard & Evolve Chocolate, V.I.P. ticket holders will enjoy early customer shopping throughout all four event sites along with three pairings of wine (white, rose and red) with three flavor profiles of chocolate truffles; "Lavender Love" (lavender blossoms, organic lemon swirled in a white, Guittard chocolate), "PNW "Kafe Kirsch" Cherry, Coffee, Hazelnut in dark organic Theo chocolate, and "Melange" Elderflower Liqueur dark organic Theo chocolate ganache dipped in white, Guittard chocolate.

**V.I.P. Tickets (\$10pp) are available today!** Call our Garden Store, (360) 466-3821, or purchase online: <http://buytickets/at/christiansonnursery>.

**Saturday, August 12th, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Antique Fair & Vintage Market opens to the public**

Our Fair is expanding to include the North Meadow Field, creating a 'Boot Sale' (vendors selling from the back of their trailers, cars and trucks). Lots of treasures to be found! Have a trailer, car or truck from which to vend? Favorable rental spaces are now available for \$50 in the North Meadow Field. Register at [www.ChristiansonsNursery.com](http://www.ChristiansonsNursery.com) or pick up a registration form in our Garden Store. Questions? Email [Stephanie.Christiansons@gmail.com](mailto:Stephanie.Christiansons@gmail.com) or contact Stephanie at (360) 466-3821.



## Primrose Antiques & Gifts

*"Primrose is a beautiful place to dream in a happy spot"-Customer, Barbara*



You know how it is when you're packing for a camping trip and it seems like it will never end? There are so many details to remember, so many trips back and forth between the house and car. And then it happens - that exhilarating moment when the packing is done and the fun begins!

That's a bit how it felt here at Primrose as we prepared the shop for summer. For weeks, we made trip after trip from our stockroom out to the shop, often questioning if summer would ever really arrive. We're happy to report that the shop is fully-stocked with summer 'essentials' - sun and garden hats, picnic baskets and

blankets, summer blouses, scarves, and beautiful vintage clothing and accessories for weddings and garden parties.

Mark your calendars! Our next Happy Home Hour event is coming up...

**Monday, August 21st, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

**'Summer-Into-Fall: Decorating Tips for Porches, Entryways & Mantels'**

*Demonstration starts at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments served.*

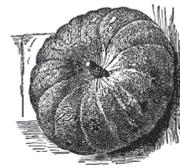
If you'd like to be added to our Happy Home Hour mailing list, please send an email to: [eve.christiansons@gmail.com](mailto:eve.christiansons@gmail.com) and simply say 'Sign me up!' For now, we wish you a summer filled with many happy, relaxing moments. So slip on your sandals, pack your sun hat, and swing by for a visit. We'd love to see You!

# 7th Annual Skagit Valley Giant Pumpkin Festival



Saturday, September 30, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



*\$1000 cash prize for the biggest pumpkin!*

Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off • Pony Rides • Face Painting • Family Carnival Games • Toad Races • “The Bat Lady”  
Giant Pumpkin Bake-Off! • Howard Dill Award for “Prettiest Pumpkin” • Giant Vegetables and Sunflowers

Sponsored by the *Pacific Northwest Giant Pumpkin Growers with Coastal Farm & Ranch,*  
*Skagit Valley Food Co-op, and Christianson’s Nursery & Greenhouse*

## Schedule of Events

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Entries for pumpkin weigh-in accepted. Watch the parade of special deliveries! Bring your exhibition veggies and sunflowers.	11 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Skagit’s own <b>Tessa McLeod</b> with <i>Random Acts of Food!</i>
		Noon – 3 p.m.	Musicians <b>Laurel Bliss</b> and <b>John Clark</b> play old-time Cajun and bluegrass.
11 a.m. – Noon	“Bats Incredible” with “Bat Lady” <b>Kathleen Bander</b> , founder of <i>Bats Northwest</i> . Reservations requested. Kids are welcome.	Noon – 3 p.m.	<i>Lang’s Pony rides!</i>
		1 – 3 p.m.	Face painting, and family carnival games!
		1 – 4 p.m.	<b>Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off</b>
		4 p.m.	<b>Winner announced!</b>

**Enter to win!** Entry forms available in the Garden Store or on our website: [www.ChristiansonsNursery.com](http://www.ChristiansonsNursery.com)

## “Ask John!”

**Q:** John, can lil ants eat the roots of vegetables? My green peas are dying, I’ve planted lettuce, spinach, green onions twice now and nothing is coming up! I do see lil ants running around my yard. I’ve been on a war path with those critters, they are chewing up my flooring in my green house!!! not happy. -Penny

**A:** Hi Penny,

There seem to be several moving parts to remedy. Ants are usually not plant eaters. If there are ants on your peas, you more than likely have aphids. Aphids will eat the plant and leave a honeydew for the ants to eat (but not the plant-although it looks like they are the culprit).

Other veggies: This problem may be a soil or water issue. It is unlikely you have bad seeds because most seeds are fresh. Seeds and seedlings like evenly moist soil. If you haven’t watered frequently that may be one reason they have shriveled up. You may have too much carbon matter in your soil from bark, which uses up the nitrogen that seedlings need to thrive. Seedlings will start to shrivel due to lack of nutrients.

Remedies: Wash aphids off with water from your hose. If they continue to infest your veggies you may need to buy an insecticidal soap; we recommend Safer Soap. For soil improvement apply E.B. Stone organic fertilizer; we carry it in our Garden Store and you will see improvement right away. Synthetic fertilizers are effective but can burn new seedlings and growth. We always recommend using organic methods before synthetics. Hope this helps!

John

## *Suggestions for basic gardening success from Our Seasoned Staff*



Well-fed plants are healthier, more productive and more attractive. Plants need to be fertilized because most soils do not provide enough nourishment to keep them healthy and beautiful. Even the best soil will eventually become depleted in nutrients leaving the soil less fertile. There are six primary nutrients that plants require. Plants get the first three—carbon, hydrogen and oxygen—from air and water. The other three are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

**Nitrogen** helps plants make the proteins they need to produce new tissue. **Phosphorus** stimulates root growth, helps the plant set buds and flowers, improves vitality and increases seed size. **Potassium** improves overall vigor of the plant.

Plant expert and co-worker, **Katherine Shiohira**, suggests specific food to customers when they purchase certain plants. For example, when buying blueberries, there is a specific fertilizer with an acidic mix (4-3-6) that blueberries love and this supplement will keep them healthy and vigorous after planting. The three numbers she describes on a fertilizer label tell you what proportion of each macronutrient the fertilizer contains. The first number is always nitrogen (N), the second is phosphorus (P) and the third is potassium (K). This “N-P-K” ratio reflects the available nutrients —by weight—contained in that fertilizer.

**Organic fertilizer or synthetic?** We recommend organic fertilizer over synthetic every time. Soils recognize organic elements that have nourished the planet for centuries. Synthetic fertilizers are man-made chemicals that interrupt the natural uptake of nutrients by the soil. They work for a while but over time they interfere with the health of the soil. Choose from organic brands in the Garden Store for everything edible that you harvest from your garden.

**Liquid or pellet fertilizer?** The fastest acting fertilizer will be liquid. Liquid can be applied to the soil or sprayed on the foliage. With foliar feeding plants absorb nutrients eight to 20 times more efficiently through their leaf surfaces than through their roots. An additional benefit is that most organic foliar feeds are odor-free, with the exception of fish. The fishy smell is very slight and goes away after a few days. For the most flavorful and largest tomatoes it’s worth it. Foliar feeds are best for seasonal plantings where you want the highest quality and earliest production in edibles and annuals. Pellet fertilizers are slow release and a great food for most applications. With pellets or powders the need for fertilizing is less and they are also beneficial in the fall when you want to start the spring season with healthy plants. Always follow label directions.

## *Want hummingbirds, bees and butterflies in your garden?*



Be sure to make room for two showy shrubs whose fragrant blooms are welcome additions to the summertime parade of plants. For summer, try *Vaccinium ovatum*, ‘Evergreen Huckleberry’. This remarkable evergreen native shrub is valuable in the landscape. *Vaccinium ovatum* can grow in either sun or shade and is tolerant of salt spray. It is surprising we do not grow this shrub more often in the Pacific Northwest. As a natural or trimmed hedge, hedgerow, or in a wildlife habitat thicket, it makes a choice plant for the garden. It even grows well in a container.

For fall, try *Elaeagnus* ‘Gilt Edge’ Silverberry for its warm golden-yellow margins on foliage year-round. Used as a hedge or low screen, this evergreen tolerates heat, wind and requires little maintenance. Once established, they need only occasional watering. Enjoy their tiny, silvery, fragrant flowers in the summer and their red fruit in fall.

# Christianson's Summer Calendar

## *Nativars: Cultivars of our Native Plants*

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

Nativars- the superhero plants! What exactly is a “Nativar”? Nativars are well-adapted natives with improved traits of cultivated plants and they offer the best of both worlds. A U.W. graduate in Botany, local radio and television personality, business consultant and long-time Nurseryman, **Scott Conner**, will discuss this refined category and give a live presentation of specific nativar plants to benefit your garden and landscaping.

## *Summer Pruning*

Saturday, July 22 11 a.m. - noon  
reservations required class fee: \$8

The right pruning for trees, shrubs and vines in summer will save you extra work in other seasons and help keep your plants healthy and attractive. **Christina Pfeiffer**, author of Pacific Northwest Month-by-Month Gardening, will demonstrate pruning practices for summer months that will lessen your workload as fall approaches.

## *Garden Zentangle!*

Saturday, September 2 10 a.m. – noon  
reservations required class fee: \$15



Join certified Zentangle® teacher, **Sara Harlan** for a 2-hour exploration of drawing patterns and motifs of a botanical nature using the Zentangle® method of drawing. Zentangle® is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images.

The very best thing about Zentangle® is that anyone can do it; no artistic experience or knowledge is necessary. We believe that “Anything is possible one stroke at a time.”® (Zentangle, Inc.) Leave this class with a delightful drawing of your own tangled garden.

## *Instant Fall Containers*

Saturday, September 16 11 a.m. – noon  
reservations required class fee: \$15

\*Class held in the Potting Shed

When choosing plants for fall containers, their ability to withstand cool temperatures, including frost or even hard frost, is key to keeping your containers looking great for months. **Laura Campbell** of Christianson's Nursery will guide you through the steps of choosing plants with Fall interest. Flowers are not the only star; there are many plants with foliage that is most colorful when the temperatures are cool. You will leave with many ideas for beautiful autumn containers to use on porches, steps, and decks or along walkways.

## *Garden Photography Workshop*

Saturday, September 23 11 a.m. – noon  
reservations required class fee: \$8



There's a distinct parallel between creating a garden and composing images of it. Composition, framing, color, texture, motion, and light are common components between them. Skagit Valley photographer, **John Holtman**, will discuss how to go beyond ‘pretty flower pictures’ and create images that highlight aspects of interest in a garden or natural landscape. Who knows? You may start looking at your garden in innovative ways after seeing it through the lens of your camera.

## *Life is A Mosaic- Live it!*

Sunday, September 24 11 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
pre-paid reservations required class fee: \$40

Local mosaic artist, **Constance Funk**, has practiced for many years to create stunning mosaics from vintage and found objects and handmade ceramics. She now offers her perfected technique in this interactive demonstration class in our Schoolhouse. You will learn about safety, materials, tools, products, and techniques for indoor and outdoor creations for home and garden. This class ignites inspiration and ideas to get you ready to start your own creative projects at home.

## *Bat's Incredible!*

Saturday, September 30 11 a.m. - noon  
reservations suggested complimentary class



Northwest bats are a curiosity. They are the only mammals that fly. Did you know that bats help control the insect population? Back by popular demand,

**Kathleen Bander**, founder of Bats Northwest, joins the fun at our Skagit Valley Giant Pumpkin Festival to talk about the 15 species of bats native to Washington. Learn about these beneficial creatures and their habits. An educational and inspiring class for all!

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

# Summer Specials

Through July 19

## Hydrangeas

Our huge selection of summer-blooming favorites includes hortensias, lacecaps, oakleaf and peegee tree forms  
20% off

August 1 – 16

## Outdoor Containers

Our huge selection of small to very large glazed and terra-cotta outdoor containers.  
20% off

August 17 – 31

## Water Plants

water lilies, floating plants, iris and more  
30% off

July 20 – 31

## Summer Herbs

basil, lavender, oregano, parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme...  
plus much more  
20% off

August 17 – 31

## Summer Heather

hardy blooming plants in a variety of colors  
20% off

## Weekly Radio Broadcast

### *The Garden Show*

Sunday Mornings with John & Mike AM 660 KAPS & FM 102.1 KAPS • 10:30 a.m.

## Stay In Touch!

### For current information

### at the Nursery,

### visit our social media sites:

Facebook@christiansonsnursery

Instagram@christiansonsnursery

Pinterest.com/christiansonspr

# CLASSES & EVENTS

*Classes are 1 hour unless otherwise noted*

## Saturday, July 15

Nativars: Cultivars of our Native Plants 11 a.m.

## Saturday, July 22

Summer Pruning, 11 a.m.

## Friday and Saturday

### August 11 & 12

Antique and Vintage Fair  
Friday Night V.I.P. ~ 5 p.m.

Saturday Open to the Public,  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## Saturday, September 2

Garden Zentangle, 11 a.m.

## Saturday, September 16

Instant Fall Containers, 11 a.m.

## Saturday, September 23

Garden Photography Workshop,  
11 a.m.

## Sunday, September 24

Life is a Mosaic-Live it!  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

## Saturday, September 30

Skagit Valley Giant Pumpkin Festival  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Open Daily 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 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, 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.



**CHRISTIANSON'S**  
Nursery & Greenhouse  
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