Whatcom County Farm Forestry Association

TREE SALE

Northwest Washington Fair Grounds
In the Henry Jansen Agricultural Center
Saturday March 14, 2020
10:00 am to 12:00 pm (or until sold out)

$1 each (no minimum quantity required, cash or check)

Tree Sale Information
360-733-5931
No Presales

If you would like more information about our group, please visit:
https://www.wafarmforestry.com/Whatcom or scan the QR code

Weedcar Cedar
Douglas fir
Fraser Fir
Giant Sequoia
Grand Fir
Incense Cedar
Japanese Larch
Mugo Pine
Noble Fir
Norway Spruce
Ponderosa Pine
Scotch Pine
Sitka Spruce
Western Hemlock
Western Red Cedar

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Next issue: APRIL 2020
Deadline: March 22
To place an advertisement or submit information, call (360) 398-1155 or e-mail editor@grownorthwest.com
Local growers ready for season’s CSA programs

by Grow Northwest

Local farmers offering Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs are busy preparing for the upcoming season. Most CSA options provide weekly boxes, allowing residents or businesses to subscribe in the early spring for a full season’s worth of produce. The content of the boxes differ by farm, however generally include vegetables and fruits grown on site (or list off-site products). Some also offer extra choices and specialty add-ons such as eggs, cheese, meat, bread, herbs and more.

Following are local farms offering CSA produce options this year. Please see their websites or call them directly for availability, pricing, and other details. Please note this is a partial list at this point in the season; additional CSA sources will be listed on our website at grownorthwest.com. To send your farm’s information, please contact editor@grownorthwest.com.

Enjoy the season!

WHATCOM
- Bellingham Country Gardens, east Bellingham: Sam and Mary Grubbs, (360) 223-3724, grubbssm@msn.com, bellingham-countrygardens.net.
- Cedarville Farm, east Bellingham: Mike and Kimberly Finger, 3081 Goshen Road, Bellingham, 360-592-5594, cedarville322@mac.com, www.cedarvillefarm.com.
- Flynn Farms, eastern bellingham: flynnfarmsdelhiwind@gmail.com.
- Holistic Homestead and Spring Frog Organic Farm, Everson, Gretchen Norman Woody, (360) 303-3711, springfrogfarm@gmail.com, www.holisticshome-stead.net.
- Moondance Farm, Acme: Billy Tate and Nicole Brown, (360) 510-4828, billyandnicole@moondancefarm.com.
- Pollen Folly Farm, Everson: Kelly Uusitalo, (425) 791-0742, pollenfollyfarm@gmail.com, www.pollenfollyfarm.com.
- Rabbit Fields Farm, Everson: Roslyn McNicholl, (360) 393-8747, rabbitfieldsfarm@yahoo.com, rabbitfieldsfarm.com.
- Rabble and Roost, Ferndale: Dakota Stranik, (360) 328-1375, rabbleandroost@gmail.com, rabbleandroost.com.
- Sumas River Farm, Sumas: Helen Solem, (360) 319-0895, helen_solem@yahoo.com.
- Terra Verde Farm, Everson: Amy and Skuter Fontaine, (360) 393-2520, terraverdefarm@gmail.com, www.ieatveggies.org.

SKAGIT
- Blue Heron Farm, Rockport: Anne Schwartz, (360) 853-8449, als@fidalgo.net.
- Hedlin’s Family Farm, Mount Vernon: Nathaniel Talbot, deepharvest@deepharvest.com, (360) 466-3977, www.hedlinfarms.com.
- Highwater Farm, Mount Vernon: Danielle and Jeff Chevalier, Highwaterfarm@gmail.com, http://wholewhirldance.wix.com/farmfit.
- Viva Farms, Mount Vernon: (360) 969-7191, info@vivafarms.org, www.vivafarms.org.
- Waxwing Farm, LLC, Mount Vernon: Arielle Luckmann, (360) 961-0744, waxwingfarmllc@gmail.com, www.waxwingfarmllc.com.

SNOHOMISH
- Caruso Farms, Snohomish: 12801 Old Snohomish Monroe Road, carusofarm.com.
- Boldly Grown Farm, Coupeville: Linda Bartlett, (360) 367-3577, roosehip@whidbey.net, roosehipfarmandgarden.com.
- Hood’s Farm, Coupeville: Three generations of the Bell family, (360) 678-3577, rosehipfarmandgarden.com.
- Rosehip Farm & Garden, Coupeville: Linda Bartlett, (360) 367-3577, roosehip@whidbey.net, roosehipfarmandgarden.com.
- Viva Farms, Mount Vernon: (360) 969-7191, info@vivafarms.org, www.vivafarms.org.
- Waxwing Farm, LLC, Mount Vernon: Arielle Luckmann, (360) 961-0744, waxwingfarmllc@gmail.com, www.waxwingfarmllc.com.

ISLAND
- Bell’s Farm, Coupeville: Three generations of the Bell family, (360) 678-4808, belfarmandstorage@gmail.com, www.bells-farm.com.
- Deep Harvest Farm, Freeland: Annie Jesperson and Nathaniel Talbot, deepharvest@gmail.com, deepharvestfarm.com.
- Rosehip Farm & Garden, Coupeville: Linda Bartlett, (360) 367-3577, roosehip@whidbey.net, roosehipfarmandgarden.com.

Sustainable Connections is hosting several CSA events, offering the public a time to learn about and meet with local farmers providing CSA options this season. Co-hosted by Tilth Alliance. Admission is free.

- Whatcom “Meet your Farmer” CSA Fair is Saturday, March 28, noon to 3 p.m. at Boundary Bay Brewery, Mountain Room, Bellingham. Meet with local farmers and review options.
- Skagit “Meet your Farmer” CSA Fair will be March 21 from 1-4 p.m. at Farmstrong Brewing Co., Beer Garden, 110 Stewart Road, Mount Vernon. Meet with local farmers and review options.
- Farm Fresh Workplaces Member Lunch will be Wednesday, April 1 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. A business-to-business connection event for CSA farmers who want to connect with employers for workplace drop-offs, this will be held at the Sustainable Connections Events Space.

For more information, contact Sara Southerland at saras@sustainable-connections.org.

Informational events

Community

Harmony Fields
Sheep Cheese & Organic Herbs
Bow, WA

New workshops & online shop!
harmonylfields.com

Your Local Source for Yarn, Fiber & Tools!

Knitting & Crochet
Spinning & Weaving
Felting & More

Free Knitting Classes Wednesdays @ 4:00 PM
Free Crochet Classes Saturdays @ 1:00 PM
Check Out More Classes & Events on Our Website!

Northwest Yarns

1401 Commercial St., Bellingham, WA
(360) 738-0167 | www.nwyarns.com

4 grownorthwest March 2020
Whatcom County Youth Fair entries due March 15

LYNDEN – The 32nd annual Whatcom County Youth Fair will be held Friday and Saturday, April 10-11. This 2-day learning fair is open to all youth ages 6-18, and is attended by youth in Whatcom and regional counties. Registration is $10 per youth (or $30 per family with 3 or more registrations). Divisions include: Beef, Cal-ligraphy, Cats, Cavies, Chess, Country Crafts/Horticulture, Creative Writing, Dairy, Dogs, Entrepreneurship, Goats, Horse, Knitting, Lawn Mower Pull, Leadership Skills, Photography, Poultry, Rabbit, Rodeo, Round Robin, Large Animal, Sheep, Sewing, Swine, Teen Leaders/Teen Management, and Woolcrafts. See Division information online; some divisions may be filled. Online entries are available at https://whatcomcountyouthfair.org and due March 15. The Fair runs 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden. For more information visit the Whatcom County Youth Fair Facebook page or see whatcomcountyouthfair.org.

Livestock Adviser training begins

BURLINGTON – Are you interested in raising beef, sheep, poultry, goats for meat, or fiber? WSU Livestock Advisor training begins a new 10-week series of classes March 3, 2020 at Stanwood High School. From fencing, feeding, housing, breeding to pasture management, learn how to raise high quality livestock sustainably. Network with WSU Livestock Advisors who share similar experiences and successes while raising livestock. Whether for your own family’s use or to increase your animals’ market value, the training provides help in developing a strategic plan incorporating livestock onto your farm. Several local farm tours are also included. Participants are asked to return 50 hours of volunteer time over a two-year period, crafting the experience to match their availability and interests. According to WSU Program Coordinator Joan DeVries, a recent graduate stated, “This program helped us make wise choices about which livestock would work for our environment. The course provided a network of contacts, and the instructors and our classmates were extremely supportive. We’re now producing the vast majority of our food and we’re happy to give back to the community through WSU’s volunteer opportunities.” Cost of the training is $125 with a second person from the farm or family free. Offered Tuesday evenings beginning March 3 and running until May 3 from 6-9 p.m. Classes are held at Stanwood High School, Stanwood. Download an application at http://skagit.wsu.edu. For questions call 360-428-4270.

Find more Field Notes and updates at www.grownorthwest.com. Have news you’d like to share? Send submissions to editor@grownorthwest.com.

Annual community plant, tree sales coming up

Local conservation districts and community groups are offering a variety of plant sales these next few weeks. Here’s a look at what’s coming up.

The Whatcom Farm Forestry Tree Sale is Saturday, March 14. Sixteen different species of trees will be available for $1 each; no pre sales. Cash or check only, and come early as supplies sell out. The sale runs 10 a.m. to noon at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden. For more information, see the event Facebook page or contact whatcom@wafarmforestry.com.

The Snohomish Conservation District’s annual Plant Sale will be Saturday, March 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe. Pre-orders are open while supplies last (www.thepplantsale.org). All orders must be picked up at the Plant Sale that Saturday. Additional plants will be available at the sale. Contact the office at 425-335-5634 ext. 4 or email scdplantsale@snohomishcd.org with any questions related to the sale. See the website for more details.

Additionally, the 3rd Annual Youth Art Contest is accepting submissions on Monday, March 2 through Friday, March 13. This year’s theme is Restoration Through Time. Categories are pre-K, 1-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. One entry per child, and artwork must not exceed 16” by 20.” Must be a Snohomish County or Camano Island resident to register.

The Whatcom Conservation District’s annual Native Plant Sale will be Saturday, March 28. More than 40 tree and shrub species are available for sale. Visitors can meet with community organizations, resources, local growers, and others in the vendor area. The sale runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the campus of Whatcom Community College in Bellingham. This year, pre-orders will only be done online through www.whatcomcd.org/plant-sale. Pre-orders must be received by March 16. See the website for more details.

The Fairhaven Plant and Tree Sale, sponsored by Fairhaven Neighbors, will be Saturday, March 28. Local and regional nurseries will be on hand with veggie starts, perennials, specialty edibles, natives, blueberries, raspberries, garden art, ornamental trees and bushes, bamboo and more. Vendors donate a portion of sales to Fairhaven Neighbors, which uses proceeds for neighborhood projects and to support other local non-profits. The sale runs 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hillcrest Chapel parking lot, corner of Old Fairhaven Parkway and 14th Street in Bellingham. For more information see Facebook.com/FairhavenPlantAndTreeSale.

The San Juan Master Gardeners’ Native Plant Sale is Saturday, March 28 at the SJ Fairgrounds. All pre orders should be picked up at the following locations: for San Juan Island – San Juan Island Fairgrounds; for Orcas Island – Orcas Island Grange; and for Shaw and Lopez – Sunset Builders. For pre-orders and information, visit MGFSJC.org.

The Skagit Conservation District’s Plant Sale will be Saturday, April 4 at 16646 Bradley Road in Bow. Orders are being accepted now, and will require pick-up on Friday, April 3. For more information on purchasing plants for projects, contact Joe at joe@skagitcd.org or 360-428-4313 ext.10203. For details, see skagitcd.org/native_plant_sales.
The Chuckanut Center is hosting a community visioning meeting to help generate ideas for the next steps for the organization. This facilitated meeting, or “charette” will focus on permaculture principals and programming needs of the community, as well as outdoor projects that will help people learn how to grow, harvest, preserve and cook produce from their own home gardens. Community members with interest in Permaculture and community collaboration are encouraged to attend. For more information, see https://chuckanutcenter.org/event/center-design-charette/. The non-profit Chuckanut Center is located at 103 Chuckanut Dr. North, Bellingham.

Chick Days at CHS Northwest runs through March 8. Great assortment of chicks, supplies, equipment, and more. Get advice on raising chicks and information about supplies. For more information, see www.chsnw.com/upcoming-event/chick-days-3/.

Non-profit organizations supporting clothing and textile education or sew for charitable purposes may apply for a grant offered by the Snohomish County Clothing & Textile Advisors (SnoCo CTA). The Snohomish County Clothing & Textile Advisors are trained volunteers who provide clothing, textile and needle arts education to the community. Funds for the grants are primarily raised through an annual SnoCo CTA Fabric and Sewing Essentials Sale held in June in Everett. The fabric sale is made possible through donations from the community. For information about applying for a grant, donating to the annual fabric sale or becoming a member of SnoCo CTA, contact julie.sevald@wsu.edu.

Non-profit organizations supporting clothing and textile education or sew for charitable purposes may apply for a grant offered by the Snohomish County Clothing & Textile Advisors (SnoCo CTA). The Snohomish County Clothing & Textile Advisors are trained volunteers who provide clothing, textile and needle arts education to the community. Funds for the grants are primarily raised through an annual SnoCo CTA Fabric and Sewing Essentials Sale held in June in Everett. The fabric sale is made possible through donations from the community. For information about applying for a grant, donating to the annual fabric sale or becoming a member of SnoCo CTA, contact julie.sevald@wsu.edu.

The WSU Skagit County Extension and Washington Assistive Technology Act Program (WATAP) are providing a free training, “Using Assistive Technology for Working Farmers.” The training helps farmers in rural communities who experience health limitations, and offers assistive technology resources. For more information, see https://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/agrability/. Contact Don McMoran at 360-395-2357 or dmcmoran@wsu.edu. The training takes place at the WSU Skagit County Extension in Burlington.

In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s recent announcement of at least $37 million in available grant support via the Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Program, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) has released a newly updated version of its Farmers’ Guide to Applying for the Value Added Producer Grant Program (The Guide). NSAC’s newly updated guide includes everything interested producers need to know about VAPG to determine if the program is a good fit for their operation, as well as details on changes made in the 2018 Farm Bill, and helpful tips to improve a producer’s chances of obtaining funding from this highly competitive program. The Guide is available for free on the NSAC website: https://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/. The deadline to submit paper applications in-person or via mail is March 10, 2020. Electronic applications must be submitted through grants.gov.

The San Juan County Economic Development Council (EDC) and San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild offer a free Value-Added 101 course on Tuesday, March 10 from 10-11:30 a.m. at Brickworks in Friday Harbor. Whether you grow a lot of food products or a little, value-added food processing is a great way to start – or expand – an ag business. Farmers and food business owners can join the San Juan County Economic Development Council (EDC) and the San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild in this informative and free 90-minute course. Participants will learn key steps in setting up a food processing business, including licensing, marketing, labeling and more. The event will be introduced by Steph Coffey of the San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild, highlighting up-coming ag-related market opportunities including the new San Juan Islands Food Hub launching in late March and the cooperative branding program Island Grown in the San Juans. The workshop will be led by Victoria Compton, Director of the EDC, who brings three decades of island marketing and advertising experience to the discussion. Topics covered will include the Washington State Department of Agriculture’s process for food licensing, FDA labeling requirements, marketing tips, best practices and more. To register, email info@sanjuansedc.org or phone 360-378-2906.
LYNDEN – The 5th annual Whatcom Small Farm Expo offers something for everyone. Presented by the Whatcom Conservation District and Whatcom County Public Works, the Expo will be held Saturday, April 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden. Admission and parking are free; all ages welcome.

This open house event will include indoor and outdoor exhibits demonstrating the latest in agricultural technology, products and services, as well as seminars and demonstrations. Designed to be an informal meet-and-greet and networking event, visitors will find opportunities to engage with vendors, experts, veterinarians, and other producers, as well as discover new resources to help improve and expand healthy agricultural and livestock production.

The event also offers an opportunity to meet with more than 50 local and regional vendors, manufacturers and exhibitors from across the farming industry to showcase their agri-business products. Participants will be given the chance to connect with supporting organizations, learn about the latest news affecting producers, ask and answer questions, and network with other farmers who share their concerns and desire to be successful.

Topic talks are scheduled throughout the day:
• Farming with Wildlife: Natural Predators, with Karen Steensma, Professor of Biology, Steensma Dairy, at 9:30 a.m.
• Weed’em Out: Managing noxious and toxic weeds on your farm, with Laurel Baldwin, Coordinator, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Board, at 10 a.m.
• Reseed, Renew, Rebound your Pasture: With Steve Groen and Molly Pershing, agronomist, Skagit Farmer Supply, at 12:30 p.m.
• Sound Horsekeeping: Best practices for Western Washington, with Dr. Cassie Torhorst, DVM, Cascadia Veterinary Care, at 1 p.m.

For more information, see the Facebook event page or www.whatcomcd.org/small-farm-expo.
Comfort food in the muck of March

by Chelsy Mesman

I am so excited to see spring in sight - at least that’s what the calendar is telling me. There will be a time when all this rain ends and the cold winds are gone and we will be complaining it is too hot, but until then I will be next to the wood fire drying out my soggy work clothes. With these dreary, cloudy days at least there is something to celebrate, National Ag Week. Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear every day and so many don’t fully understand this contribution.

Today, each American farmer feeds more than 165 people, a remarkable difference from 25 people in the 1960s. National Ag Week is celebrated March 22-28, let’s take these days and recognize the role agriculture plays in providing us safe, abundant, and affordable products.

Although I still want to keep my new year’s resolution, like many of you, I love this time of year for making hearty food. I know, I know I will be eating all the fresh vegetables from my garden come spring and summer time, but comfort food keeps me warm and my belly full while doing mucky winter chores. These days with two small kids dinner needs to be quick and healthy, and if it doesn’t involve too many dishes then that’s a bonus.

My family loves lasagna, but this mama doesn’t have the time to assemble a traditional layered dish. This skillet lasagna is perfect for when I don’t have much time after chores and my littles are running around my feet asking for food. The ingredients for this one skillet meal I always have on hand and it comes together in no time. And don’t forget the dessert! My oldest absolutely loves these chocolate peanut butter cookies. A perfect combination of peanut butter and chocolate served warm and gooey with a tall glass of milk.

Chocolate Peanut Butter Cookies

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 1 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda

Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Combine shortening, peanut butter, brown sugar, milk, vanilla. Beat on medium speed. Add egg, mix well. In a separate bowl, combine flour, cocoa, salt and baking soda. Slowly add to peanut butter mixture on low speed. Mix until just blended. Drop heaping tablespoon onto a parchment lined cookie sheet. Space 2 inches apart. Flatten with a criss cross pattern with tines of a fork. Bake 7-8 minutes. Make sure not to over bake! Cool on cookie sheet for 2 minutes then move to a cooling rack. Serve with a glass of milk and enjoy!

Skillet Lasagna

Ingredients

- 12 ounces farfalle noodles or bowtie
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/2 medium onion, diced
- 1 (24 ounce) jar spaghetti sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 cup shredded Mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Cook noodles according to package directions. Drain and set aside. Meanwhile, heat oil in skillet on medium high heat then add beef and onion. Cook breaking up beef into smaller pieces. Drain fat. Add remaining ingredients and carefully stir to combine. Turn heat to low and continue to cook until heated through, about 10 minutes. Serve and enjoy!

Chocolate peanut butter cookies and skillet lasagna. PHOTO BY CHELSY MESMAN

FREE Seed Germination Workshop with Brenda Clifton from 1-2pm. Seed share to follow.

COMMUNITY SEED SHARE & GARDEN FAIR
SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1-4pm
MOUNT VERNON CITY LIBRARY
315 SNOQUALMIE ST.

FREE SEEDS!
EXPERT ADVICE
CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES
We have lots of seed to give away, but if you have saved seeds to share, please bring them!

Please call (360) 336-6209 for more information.

City of Mount Vernon
Spring is on the way!

HAPPY MARCH!

WORRIED ABOUT THE HEALTH OF THE ENVIRONMENT? WONDERING WHAT YOU CAN DO?

Learn zero-waste lifestyle techniques, best practices in recycling, and the secrets to building healthy soil in this FREE, four-week volunteer training.

This training includes 30 hours of lecture based learning, books, and tools. In exchange, participants commit to giving back 40 hours of volunteer service to the local area as compost and recycling educators. Training includes guest speakers, hands on learning, and field trips to area facilities. Participants who complete the four-week course will receive a Master Composter/Recycler Volunteer badge and the honor of working as a community educator, on behalf of Skagit County.

TO APPLY ONLINE, visit: www.skagitcounty.net/recycle and click on 2020 Master Composter Recycler Volunteer Training Application. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, March 6th by 5 p.m.

CLASSES BEGIN Tuesday, March 17th at 6 p.m. in Mount Vernon.

QUESTIONS? Contact Callie Martin at calliem@co.skagit.wa.us or call (360) 416-1575.
LOCAL LIFE

Send your photos to editor@grownorthwest.com. Your photo may be included here in our next issue. Seasonal content only please: food, farms, cooking, gardening, DIY, crafts, adventures, events, landscapes and more. Be sure to include name of photographer and brief description of material.

Barn in the Nooksack Valley. PHOTO BY CAROL KILGORE

Spring is on the way. PHOTO BY NICOLE HUSON

Onion starts. PHOTO BY NICOLE HUSON

Primroses and pussy willows. PHOTO BY JULIE HAGEN
Pruning blueberries. PHOTO BY CAROL KILGORE

Frosty morning. PHOTO BY GANJANA NGAMSNT

Reflection. PHOTO BY DONNA RIEPER

Bergenia. PHOTO BY CAROL KILGORE

Evening sunset. PHOTO BY BARBARA SMITH

Seed packets. PHOTO BY AMY DONAHUE
Think Spring: Get inspired with these local classes

We can feel the season changing, Spring soon emerging. Feeling excited and inspired to get your hands dirty? Consider checking out these classes from local nurseries that will have you prepared and ready.

The Blaine C.O.R.E. (Community Organization for Resources and Education) offers **Pruning 101** on Saturday, March 14 at the Blaine Library. Discover what tools are required, the what and why behind pruning, as well as growth habits of trees/bushes and how to make the best decision in your pruning. The workshop starts at 10 a.m. The Blaine Library is located at 610 3rd Street, Blaine and can be reached at (360) 305-3637. Free admission.

Kim Swanson will teach you how to make **Hypertufa Containers**! These lightweight concrete planters have been used in old English gardens for centuries and they can become a part of your garden. Swanson shows you the process on Saturday, March 14 at Garden Spot Nursery in Bellingham. The class fee of $39 covers all supplies. Register at www.garden-spot.com/classes.

Do you love roses, or want to get started? Head to **Everything's Coming Up Roses** on Saturday, March 14 at Christianson's Nursery, 15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon. The rose is America's most popular flower and 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 Christianson's Rose Buyer, Nancy Stewart, on varieties we have in stock that are fragrant, disease-resistant, and easy care. Learn of her personal homage to the late English rose breeder, David Austin. Class fee is $8. 1 p.m. Call 360-466-3821 or see www.ChristiansonsNursery.com.

The Mount Vernon City Library is hosting a **Community Seed Share & Garden Fair** on Sunday, March 15. They have free seeds for all participants, and welcome seed donations or any saved seeds to be shared. Get expert advice and enjoy children and family activities from 1-4 p.m., as well as a free Seed Germination Workshop with Brenda Clifton from 1-2 p.m. The Mount Vernon City Library is located at 315 Snoqualmie Street, Mount Vernon. Admission is free. Call (360) 336-6209 for more information.

We’re dreaming of dahlia blooms! You, too? Check out the **Dahlias workshops** on Wednesday, March 18 and Saturday, March 21 at the Blaine Library. Presented by Blaine C.O.R.E. (Community Organization for Resources and Education), dahlias come in thousands of colors and flower forms, and are rewarding with their long bloom time. They are considered to be the premier cut flower. While easy to grow, one does need to know the tricks. Expert dahlia growers Tiffany Fisk and Kelle Sunter will demonstrate. Workshop times are Wednesday 4 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.

In addition, **Road Wages: Cultivating Dahlias** will be offered at Christianson's Nursery on Saturday, March 21 at 11 a.m. A growing number of dahlia gardeners are selling their flowers at roadside stands. Instructors John and Kathy Willson will teach you how to cultivate and market high-quality flowers using a self-serve system. The class fee is $8. See www.ChristiansonsNursery.com.

**Permaculture with Bruce Horowitz** will be Thursday, March 26 at the Downtown Community Food Co-op in Bellingham. Learn principles, strategies, and techniques to produce food, resources, energy, medicine and more. Registration is $25. Bruce is a certified Permaculture teacher and is the owner of RIPE Landscapes. See https://communityfood.coop/events/.
Find Spring crafts, projects at local shows

by Grow Northwest

Let’s get crafty! Take a look at what’s coming up for spring craft shows and more.

The Lynden Craft and Antique Show returns to the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds, Thursday, March 19 through Saturday, March 21. See the garden booths including Cherry Hill Nursery, Glen Echo Garden, The Rustic Bird Chalet, Petals and Blooms, Kara’s Windchimes, and Van Sabbens’s planters and outdoor furniture, and more. A marketplace of hand crafted items, specialty foods, boutique clothing, hand designed jewelry, collections for baby, vintage and re-purposed treasures and much more will fill the Haggen Exposition Building. Food and drinks include Perfect Blend Espresso, Lyndsay’s Kettle Corn, Dutch Poffertjes, Sugar & Spice Donuts, and Wood Fired Pizza.

Enjoy a Free Mini Succulent Make & Take and enter a drawing to win a Fabulous Porch Planter on Thursday evening from 5-8 p.m. Check out the show’s Facebook page or Instagram for show photos and visit the website (www.lyndencraftantiqueshow.com) for a complete listing of vendors. Hours are Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is $6. Seniors ages 60 and over are $5. Children 12 and under are free. Entrance fee includes return privileges to the show. Free parking.

The 1st annual Wild + Wonderful Spring Market is coming Friday and Saturday, March 27-28 at the Ferndale Events Center. Featuring the best in vintage, antique, farmhouse, rustic, handmade, boutique and local vendors, you will also find professional photography in the spring themed photobooth, fun hobby classes, and delicious local treats! Admission is free. For more information, contact wildwonderfulmarket@gmail.com or see the Facebook event page.

The annual Whidbey Weavers Guild Spin-In is Saturday and Sunday, April 4-5. There will be daily raffle and door prizes, and also this year is “open to the public” shopping with great selection of vendors on Saturday only from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A $15 donation is asked at the door. The event runs until 4 p.m. at Oak Harbor High School, #1 Wildcat Way, Oak Harbor. For more information see www.whidbeyweaversguild.org.

The 28th annual Garage Sale, Antiques & More will be Friday and Saturday, April 10-11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over 150 vendors, handcrafted items, live music and more at the Skagit County Fairgrounds, Mount Vernon. Admission and parking are $3 each. More information is available at www.skagitcounty.net/Fairgrounds or call (360) 336-9414.

The 3rd annual LC Artisan & Vendor Market, hosted by Lynden Christian Schools, is coming April 18. Come out and shop the diverse group of more than 70 local artisans, crafters, and direct sales vendors. Entrance is free.

Whether you do it yourself, or do it with help, The RE Store has your back.

Come to The RE Store and see our affordable rotating inventory of new and recycled building materials and home furnishings.

We have cabinets, doors, windows, lighting, hardware, lumber, tools, furniture & more. Save up to 70% off retail prices.

Perfect for homeowners & renters!

RE STORE
1300 Merriman Rd, Burlington, WA 98233
(360) 647-3927 | re-store.org
Mon - Sat: 10am - 6pm
Free Donation pickup

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March 2020 13
**Good Pickin’s**

**Community Gear Sale and Swap**

**Saturday, March 14**

Buy, sell or trade used outdoor gear. Registered swappers have the chance to wheel and deal with each other 30 minutes before doors open to the public. Sign up for a booth indoor or outdoor ($20 per booth). Free entry for shoppers. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Burlington Parks & Rec Center, 900 E. Fairhaven Avenue. Register online at www.burlingtonwa.gov/parksandrec or call 360-755-9649.

**SICBA Home & Garden Show**

**Friday through Sunday, March 27-29**

All things home and garden, and family-friendly! Presented by Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association (SICBA) and sponsored by Banner Bank. Over 120 vendors, live music, food trucks, tastings (Saturday night), free Lego® Contest (Sunday), make and take, charity raffles, birdhouse building, and more. Admission is adults $7, military $5, seniors $5, kids 15 and under are free to enter. For a complete schedule of the seminars and more information, see www.SICBAHomeShow.com.

**Skagit Beer Week**

**Saturday, March 28 through April 4**

Skagit Beer Week 2020 starts with the Collaboration Release Party, Skagit Farm to Pint Beer Run and the Kick-off Concert at Tulip Town. All week-long expect a marathon of brewery tours, tap takeovers and educational events around Skagit Valley. Skagit Farm to Pint FEST on April 4 is the Grand Finale of Skagit Beer Week 2020. For full details, and participating breweries, see www.skagitbeer-week.com.

**MARCH EVENTS**

**Send event submissions to info@grownorthwest.com. Find more updates online at www.grownorthwest.com.**

6th annual La Conner Daffodil Festival: Enjoy the fields of daffodils, and events and activities throughout La Conner and the Skagit Valley including the Jazz Valley Concert (March 7), Pie & Ice Cream Social Fundraiser and Silent Auction (March 12), and Dandy Daffodil Tweed Ride (March 21). See the Facebook page or www.lovelaconner.com for daffodil bloom updates and field locations.

March Madness: The Garden Edition: Monday, March 2. The Co-op’s Jay Williams will share what you can plant now from starts or seeds, how to do it including soil prep, crop rotation, succession planting, what needs feeding now, natural pest control and more. 6:30 p.m. Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Suite 309, Mount Vernon. Pre-register at skagitfoodcoop.com/event or call Nicole at 360-336-5087x136.

Worm Your Way into Composting: Tuesday, March 3. Learn how to compost your food scraps by harnessing the work of worms, with Callie Martin. Plus worm bin design, care, and feeding. 6:30 p.m. Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Suite 309, Mount Vernon. Pre-register at skagitfoodcoop.com/event or call Nicole at 360-336-5087x136.

Bats: Birchwood Garden Club’s March Meeting: Wednesday, March 4. Birchwood Garden Club’s March speaker will be Kathleen Bander, founder of Bats Northwest. She will identify the local resident bat species and their lifestyle status. To increase our nocturnal visitations, she will provide information on how to attract and nurture the resident populations, there will be effective logistical support, (housing, care, feeding, rules and advice.) All welcome. 7 p.m. Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room, 121 Prospect Street, Bellingham. See www.birchwoodgardenclub.org. Birchwood Garden Club membership is open to everyone. The Birchwood Garden Club provides financial support and/or gardening expertise to the following community organizations: The Bellingham Public Library, Growing Veterans, Cornwall Rose Garden, Whatcom Museum of History and Art and the Bellingham Food Bank.

2020 Whatcom County Home and Garden Show: Friday through Sunday, March 6-8. Visit with over 200 vendors and get some great ideas for your next project, including home improvement and yard projects, at the NW Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden. Sponsored by the Building Industry Association of Whatcom County. Friday hours 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ladies Night (door prizes) and beer and wine tastings 5-8 p.m. Saturday hours 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Family Day 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meet Characters Elsa and Anna and Captain America. Brad & John Show 5:30-6:15 p.m. Beer and wine tasting 5-8 p.m. Sunday hours 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Gardening with Ciscoe Morris 1-3 p.m. For admission and complete schedule, see www.biawc.com and the Facebook event page.

Learn To Seed and Grow Your Own Veggies: Saturday, March 7. Learn about lighting, soil, temperature, containers and seed germination time. Special discounts on seeds. 9 a.m. Garden Spot Nursery, Bellingham. Register at www.garden-spot.com/classes.

Plant it and Take It’ Seed Tray of Veggies: Saturday, March 7. Planting four cool season vegetables of your choice. Class fee is $10 per tray. 10 a.m. Garden Spot Nursery, Bellingham. Register at www.garden-spot.com/classes.

Mount Baker Orchid Society annual Show and Sale: Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8. Accredited judges of the American Orchid Society will be judging on Saturday. Orchids will be on sale by orchid vendors and MBOS members, and services will be available. Classes on orchid reblooming and orchid culture will be held both Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. and an “orchid doctor” will be available to answer questions. The event is free and open to the public. Skagit Valley Gardens, 18923 Peter Johnson Road, Mount Vernon. Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. See skagitvalleygardens.com or the Mount Baker Orchid Society’s Facebook page.

A Fascination for Hellebores: Chris- tianson’s 14th Annual Winter Festival: Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8. Irresistible Hellebores are bursting through the cold to arrive in full bloom. When most perennials are slumbering, hellebores are in full bloom from December through April. These under-story perennials are easy to grow, deer resistant, and grown in endless variety; some are clear, others have spotting, striping, and can be bi-colored. A complimentary class begins Saturday at 11 a.m. with Skagit Gardens’ horticulturist Melanie Mackinnon who will discuss these darlings of the winter season and their hardy characteristics. An inspiring and educational day for those seeking happy surprises in their winter gardens. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Christianson’s Nursery, 15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon. To inquire, call 360-466-3821 or see www.christiansonsnursery.com.

Penn Cove MusselFest: Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8. Mussels are the centerpiece of two days of festivities, including chowder tasting and mussel eating competitions, farm tours and activities for all ages featuring locally-flavored fun. See www.thepenncovemusselfestival.com.

5th Annual Irish Dinner and Silent Auction: Saturday, March 7. All proceeds benefit Meals on Wheels and More, a program of the Whatcom Council on Aging, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Enjoy a traditional Irish dinner of corned beef and cabbage provided by Haggen Market Street Catering (vegetarian option available), live music, local brews by Boundary Bay Brewery, wine, a silent auction and more. 21+, 5-9 p.m. Bellingham Ferry Terminal. Suggested donation $5. See the Facebook event page or www.whatcomcoa.org/upcoming-events.

Choir of the Salish Sea: Saturday, March 7. Choir of the Salish Sea presents “How Wolves Change Rivers: Singing the World into Balance” at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, 1207 Ellsworth Street, Bellingham. Tickets are $20/$5, online through www.brownpapertickets.com.

Chuckanut Center Community Vi- sioning Meeting: Sunday, March 8. Chuckanut Center is hosting a community visioning meeting to help generate ideas for the next steps for the organization. This facilitated meeting, or ‘charette’ will focus on Permaculture principals and programming needs of the community, as well as outdoor projects that will help people learn how to grow, harvest, preserve and cook produce from their own home gardens. Community members with interest in Permaculture and community collaboration are encouraged to attend. Potluck Lunch will be provided. RSVPs required at https://chuckanutcenter.org/event/center-design-charette/. Coffee at 9 a.m., followed by meeting at 9:30 a.m. and lunch at 1 p.m. Chuckanut Center, 103 Chuckanut Dr. North, Bell- ingham. Please park at Fairhaven Park, accessible parking only on site. Free.

Writing FoodWISE: Wednesday, March 11. Professor and author Gigi Berardi will discuss writing your stories with Whatcom Writers and Publishers at 7 p.m., Nicki’s Bella Marina (Skyline Room). Her new book, titled FoodWISE: A Whole Systems Guide to Sustainable and Delicious Food Choices, outlines approaches to informed food choices, agriculture, and more.

Indian Home Cooking with Robert Fong: Wednesday, March 11. Robert joins forces with guest chef Rajat Damani of Simmering Tava to create a spread of favorite dishes from India. 6:30 p.m. Downtown Community Co-op, Bellingham. $55. https://communit-tyfood.coop/events/

FoodWISE Series with Tom Malterre and Sally Fallon: Tuesday, March 12. Western Washington University Professor of Environmental Studies Gigi Be- rardi hosts guest speakers and discus- sions in conjunction with the release of her new book, FoodWISE. Discussed includes Tom Malterre, Whole Life food
**Monthly Farmer Markets**

The **Anacortes Monthly Winter Farmers Market** meets Saturday, March 14. Produce, food, crafts, and more. Inside the Depot building, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more details, see www.anacortesfarmersmarket.org.

The **Bellingham Winter Saturday Farmers Market** meets Saturday, March 21. Produce, crafts, foods, plants, and more. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Depot Market Square. See bellinghamfarmers.org.


**Hypertufa Class:** Saturday, March 14. Kim Swanson will teach you how to make hypertufa containers. These lightweight concrete planters have been used in old English gardens for centuries and they can become a part of your garden. Class fee of $39 covers all supplies. 9 a.m. Garden Spot Nursery, Bellingham. Register at www.garden-spot.com/classes.

**Growing Wine Grapes:** Saturday, March 14. The Center has been conducting wine grape variety trials for almost 20 years, and developing different training systems to improve grape production. This workshop will provide an overview of how to grow wine grapes in our climate. Learn about practices including soil requirements, pruning techniques, pest management and harvesting. Be prepared to be outside. 10:30 a.m. $15 per person. Cloud Mountain Farm Center, Everson. Register through www.cloudmountainfarmcenter.org or call 360-966-5859.

**Pi Day Pie Contest & Celebration:** Saturday, March 14. It’s our 3rd Annual Pi Day Pie Contest and Celebration at the Lynden Library. Enter your pie for a chance to win a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place ribbon for best pie and the opportunity to have your pie chosen to win the People’s Choice Award. Registration is required for bakers. This contest is open to all ages. Pies must be homemade and they can be either sweet or savory. Don’t want to make a pie? Come and enjoy a slice of pie, Pi/Pie Trivia, and a good ol’ fashioned pie eating contest. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Lynden Library. 1 p.m. Lynden Library, 216 4th Street, Lynden, (360) 354-4883.

**Pi Day Pie Contest & Celebration:** Saturday, March 14. 3.14 is the best day to talk about pi while eating delicious pie at the Sumas Library. Join us for a homemade pie baking contest and fun pi/pie trivia. Contest Information: Pies entered can be savory or sweet. Registration is required for the Homemade Pie Baking Contest. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place along with the prestigious People’s Choice Award. Contestants can register online or at the library. 3 p.m. Sumas Library, 461 2nd Street, Sumas, (360) 988-2501.

**Skagit Valley Food Co-op Wellness Fair:** Saturday, March 14. Wellness workshops, raffles, free samples, and more. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Mount Vernon. More info at www.skagitfoodcoop.com.

**Community Gear Sale and Swap:** Saturday, March 14. Buy, sell or trade used outdoor gear. Registered swappers have the chance to wheel and deal with each other 30 minutes before doors open the public. Sign up for a booth indoor or outdoor ($20 per booth). Free entry for shoppers. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Burlington Parks & Rec Center, 900 E. Fairhaven Avenue. Register online at www.burlingtonwa.gov/parksandrec or call 360-755-9649.

**Residential Garden Project: Japanese Dry Landscape Garden:** Saturday, March 14. Ornamental Horticulturist Hans Wressnigg will review a garden installation at a Whatcom County residence, following its evolution from the site conditions, the initial conception, and development, to completion. $15. 10 a.m. Christianson’s Nursery, 15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon. Call 360-466-3821 or see www.ChristiansonsNursery.com.

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**Community Seed Share & Garden Fair:** Sunday, March 15. Free seeds. We have lots of seed to give away, but if you have saved seeds to share, please bring them! Expert advice and children activities. 1-4 p.m. Free Seed Germination Workshop with Brenda Clifton from 1-2 p.m. Seed share to follow. Mount Vernon City Library, 315 Snoqualmie Street, Mount Vernon. Please call (360) 336-6209 for more information.

**Dahlias:** Wednesday, March 18 and Saturday, March 21. Dahlias come in thousands of different rose varieties, and the very oldest in cultivation. There are thousands of different rose varieties to have in stock that are fragrant, disease-resistant, and easy care. Learn of her personal homage to the late English rose breeder, David Austin. Class fee is $8. 1 p.m. Christianson’s Nursery, 15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon. Call 360-466-3821 or see www.ChristiansonsNursery.com.

**Winter Propagation: Grafting:** Saturday, March 14. Propagation by grafting is fun and a satisfying way to create new plants. In this two-hour workshop, you’ll learn how to propagate fruit trees and other woody plants during the dormant season using grafting techniques. 1:30 p.m. $50. Cloud Mountain Farm Center, Everson. Register through www.cloudmountainfarmcenter.org or call 360-966-5859.

**Everything’s Coming Up Roses:** Saturday, March 14. The rose is America’s most popular flower and 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 Christianson’s Rose Buyer, Nancy Stewart, on varieties we have in stock that are fragrant, disease-resistant, and easy care. Learn of her personal homage to the late English rose breeder, David Austin. Class fee is $8. 1 p.m. Christianson’s Nursery, 15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon. Call 360-466-3821 or see www.ChristiansonsNursery.com.

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does need to know the tricks. Expert dahlia growers Tiffany Fisk and Kelle Sunter will demonstrate. Presented by Blaine C.O.R.E. (Community Organzi-

Chewing the Fat with Stephanie Ellis and Djuna Harper: Wednesday, March 18, Chef Stephanie Ellis and Djuna Harper offer an eye-opening and taste bud-delighting exploration of fat. Learn how and when to use different cooking fats such as avocado and olive oils, but-

Road Wages: Cultivating Dahlias: Saturday, March 21. A growing number of dahlia gardeners are selling their flow-

Italian Desserts with Bruno Feldeisen: Monday, March 23. Chef Bruno Feldeisen demonstrates how to make three classics: lemon ricotta tira-

Permaculture with Bruce Horowitz: Thursday, March 26. Learn principles, strategies, and techniques that work with nature to produce an abundance of on-site food, resources, energy, medicine and more. Bruce is a certified Permaculture teacher and the co-director of RIPE Landscapes. Downtown Com-

Conifer class with Ginger: Saturday, March 21. Count on conifers to provide vibrant green, luxuriously tasty sting-

Learn to Grow a Vegetable Garden: Saturday, March 28. Learn how to success-

Whatcom Conservation District’s 27th annual Native Plant Sale: Saturday, March 28. More than 40 tree and shrub species available at the sale. Visit with resources, local growers, and more in the vendor area. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. On the Campus of Whatcom County College, Everett. This year, pre-orders will only be done on-

Two Soups, One Hour with Suzanne Butler: Saturday, March 28. Explore soups. Serves 4 as a main dish or 8 as a first course. The dish is served with a side of fresh bread or rolls.

Meet Your Farmer CSA Fair: Saturday, March 28. Meet local farmers and learn about buying farm-fresh, healthy food in one convenient weekly box. Enjoy live music and a print. Hosted by Eat Local First and Sustainable Connections, and Tith Alliance. Noon to 3 p.m. Boundary Bay Brewery, 1107 Railroad Ave, Bellingham. See eatlocal-

Skagit Conservation District Plant Sale: Saturday, April 4. Large selection of native plants. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. WACD Lynn Brown Materials Center, 16564 Hwy 526, Burlington. Please preorder pick up Friday, April 3. For more details, see www.skagitcd.org/native_plant_sales.

Annual Whidbey Weavers Guild Spin-

Get event information to editor@ grownorthwest.com.
Spring is on the way! Write about what you see where you live.

Unscramble these words:

HMCAR ______________________
NSIGPR ______________________
IGDALLYHT SINGSAV __________
DDOILAFF ____________________
DSEE _________________________
PCSMOOT _____________________
ARMKET ______________________
IEP __________________________

Funny Farm

What did the tree say to spring? What a re-leaf.

Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the Fall they "Let It Go" and in the Spring they "turn over a new leaf."

Why did the worm cross the ruler? To become an inchworm.

Why do hens lay eggs? If they dropped them, they’d break.

This month’s project

Seed growth

Fill an empty yogurt cup or other small container/pot with good dirt and plant a seed of your choice. Place on your windowsill for good light, and record the growth process starting with Day #1 and continuing each day. When does it reach the surface? Record your guesses and see what happens! Include your own pictures, too!

WANT A FREE JUNIOR GROWERS STICKER?
Send a quick note about the great stuff you’re doing and learning, and we’ll send you one! It’s green! Email editor@grownorthwest.com or send to PO Box 414 Everson WA 98247.
Spring is on the way. PHOTO BY BARBARA SMITH
Free event!

Small Farm Expo

Saturday, April 4th 9 am-2pm
Haggen Expo Building, NW WA Fairgrounds
www.whatcomcd.org/small-farm-expo

Sponsored by:

COASTAL REALTY

Family Farmers CHS

Whatcom County Youth Fair
April 10 & 11, 2020
Northwest Washington Fair & Event Center Lynden, WA
Learning to last a lifetime!
Entries due March 15th
For information, see whatcomcountyyouthfair.org

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Bantam 46 is family-friendly downstairs,
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THIS TWO-DAY LEARNING FAIR IS FOR AGES 6-18. ALL WELCOME. $10 per exhibitor.
DIVISIONS: • Beef • Calligraphy • Cats • Cavies • Chess • Country Crafts/Horticulture • Creative Writing • Dairy • Dogs • Goats • Horse • Knitting • Lawn Mower Pull • Leadership Skills • Photography • Poultry • Rabbit • Rodeo • Round Robin, Large Animal • Sheep • Sewing • Swine • Teen Leaders/Teen Management • Woolcrafts. See Division information online; some may be filled.