

## ***Sunshine Greetings from Hummingbird Farm Nursery & Gardens,***

Okay, so *today* isn't so sunny, but yesterday was, and we're hopeful that tomorrow will be, too. Besides, as we've heard once or thrice before, "Nature made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done," And, in our case, it's paperwork and correspondence.

For those of you who do Facebook, check out our Earth Day 2012 photos ([www.facebook/hummingbird.farm.nursery.and.gardens.com](http://www.facebook/hummingbird.farm.nursery.and.gardens.com)). We were out in our field this past Sunday planting trees - eight of them - magnolia, three cherries, staghorn sumac, and three redbud dogwoods. And, tulips, hyacinths, narcissus - many of the 500+ bulbs we planted last year in and around our main display gardens are bursting forth and showing off their spring colors.

Come by with your camera and sit a spell in our certified backyard wildlife habitat. The hummers are here feeding, courting, and breeding.

May is filled with fun activities and events for the entire family ~ planting, discussing, learning, picnicking, creating, building, exchanging, and more. Come visit and share some fun with us!

### **GARDENERS' EXCHANGE/SWAP MEET:**

Our next **GARDENERS' EXCHANGE** will be held *this weekend* on **SUNDAY, APRIL 29th**, starting at **1PM**, in our small retail greenhouse.

The first half hour of our exchange, "*exchanging gardeners*" will bring their *healthy* bulbs, cuttings, seeds, herbs, house plants, perennials, annuals, etc., plus, any *gently used or "re-gifted"* garden books, tools, apparel, yard art, bird feeders, and such, to be sorted into categories. And, during that first half hour exchanging gardeners will have the chance to *survey and browse* all the garden loot and make out their wish lists. Participants will be given "number tickets" as they arrive to establish the order of the first round of exchange (psst . . . arrive on time).

During the next hour, the fun will begin as we start the actual exchanging. Leftover exchange items can be taken home again by participants, left out on a "help yourself table," or donated to our local garden clubs or non-profit thrift stores. We will conclude our *monthly Gardeners' Exchange on Last Sundays* with a **POTLUCK** of light afternoon snacks and desserts. Drinks and paper goods will be provided by HFNG.

Next month's Gardeners' Exchange: Sunday, May 27th, 1-3PM (Memorial Weekend).

### **GATHERING FOR GARDENING:**

On **TUESDAY, MAY 1st, 10:00-11:00AM**, we will have our free **GATHERING FOR GARDENING** garden forum. This month's topic will be "**CREATING ROOM to GROW**," and we will talk about combining edibles (vegetables, fruits, and herbs) with ornamentals (perennials and annuals) that attract beneficial creatures to cultivate better garden spaces all around your yard.

We encourage gardening "show and tell" so bring photos, garden journals, books,

magazines, or whatever can fit into your car and be easily carried into our greenhouse to share.

All gardeners, novice to expert, are invited to attend our monthly meetings, on *first* Tuesdays. Share your gardening know-how, your successes (and not so's), talk about the latest and greatest plants, products, and techniques. Share your plant "wish lists", and Lee will be happy to find and custom order your plants. We invite guest speakers to share their gardening expertise.

DRESS for fickle weather just in case. Bring a Friend or Neighbor. Refreshments provided. A **10% OFF SHOPPING COUPON** to use that day is our "Thank You" to you for attending.

Following our forum, we will host our hands-on "**BUILD a GARDEN TRUG that MOM/YOU WILL LOVE**" project workshop, **11:00AM-1:00PM, TUESDAY, May 1st.**

Lee will demonstrate *how to build a garden trug* to hold your garden tools, gloves, plant starts, and *harvested edibles*. We'll have information and kits for trugs to build just in time for Mother's Day gift giving ~ or, build one for yourself and get a gift you are sure to love .

There is a **\$10 FEE to attend** the demonstration and receive building plans and supply lists. If you would like to purchase an affordable **TRUG BUILDING KIT (\$25)**, you can build your pre-purchased kit during the workshop so Lee can assist you, or you can just watch and then take your kit home to build later.

If you'd like to sign up for the workshop now,  
contact: [lee@hummingbirdfarmnursery.com](mailto:lee@hummingbirdfarmnursery.com) or call: 360-679-5044.

#### **CALLIOPE'S CRAFT CORNER:**

CALLIOPE'S CRAFT CORNER, featuring craft classes for "*children creating art from nature's garden,*" will be held on the **1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, June through August, 1:00-3:00 PM.** Projects will be age appropriate for 4 to 12 year olds. The class fee is **\$15 per child per class**, and we ask you *pre-register and pre-pay* for classes to reserve a spot since our classroom size is limited. Parents and grandparents can accompany younger aged children at no charge.

Our class will be held in our small greenhouse. Due to the nature of our art project and this being our first class session, we will have extra supplies available for any last minute additions to our class registration.

Our first class will be **Saturday, June 2nd, 1:00-3:00PM: NATURE'S CLASSROOM** ~ Exploring the Farm Using Our Senses and Creating A Naturescape Notebook.

For registration information, please visit our website calendar: [www.hummingbirdfarmnursery.com](http://www.hummingbirdfarmnursery.com). Check back in a couple weeks for a

complete class list.

For questions, email: [lori@hummingbirdfarmnursery.com](mailto:lori@hummingbirdfarmnursery.com).

### **PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY:**

Our "**PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY**" 2012 Project will begin soon in our raised vegetable garden beds. Our garden beds are now located behind our large propagation greenhouse.

You are invited to be a part of our year-round demonstration and educational garden at our farm in our west field.

We will host a **PAR "Get Ready To Plant" Meeting** at our farm on **SUNDAY, MAY 20th, 3 - 4PM**. By that time, our family-planted "square-foot gridded, small space, huge harvest garden" will be sprouting for you to see. Everyone is invited, and we encourage youth service groups to attend, most especially.

Learn to garden and plant vegetables in our raised bed gardens, then take those skills home and plant your own garden this summer, fall, and winter dedicating a "ROW FOR THE HUNGRY." We encourage *your kind and generous assistance* whenever you can provide it: weekends, weekdays, after work, and during holidays from work and school. You don't need to know much about gardening, we'll be here to help. And, it won't cost you anything but some time, some energy, some sweat.

Motivate your Boy and Girl Scouts, your school service organizations, church members, community club members, your family, your coworkers, your neighbors, your co-squadron buddies, your Bunco and sports pals, or your walking partners. When your "**planting team**" sets the date to "*plant your row for the hungry,*" we'll be here to help you get started. Just email Lee a few days ahead so we have seeds and tools ready at hand.

We are donating our *locally grown produce* to our local island food bank: **North Whidbey Help House** (Oak Harbor).

And, we encourage you to do the same with your own home garden this year and donate to the local food bank closest to your home.

Our Whidbey Island Chapter PAR motto is: "***Start on a small scale and grow more each year.***" We expect nothing less than success!

Contact [lori@hummingbirdfarmnursery.com](mailto:lori@hummingbirdfarmnursery.com) or call 360.679.5044 for more info, or to schedule a PAR presentation at your service organization meetings,

### **NURSERY NEWS:**

**"POT A PLANT FOR MOM"** on **Saturday, May 12th**, *all day in the nursery*. We'll help you pick out a brightly painted ceramic pot and find that perfect perennial, herb, or even vegetable, in our growing nursery for you to pot.

***Plants and pots*** for Mother's Day gifts will be offered at **20% OFF if we do the potting**,

**25% OFF if you do the potting** at our Transplant Station. Gift wrapping will be complimentary.

(Pssst . . . we'll even extend the sale through the next day - **Mother's Day, May 13th** ~ for that special mom, grandma, godmother, aunt, gal pal, neighbor, or daycare provider, if you're running on *island time*).

Meanwhile in Lee's plantdom, **specialty perennials, fruit and flowering vines, small shrubs, evergreens and trees, farm-grown herbs and A to Z vegetable starts** are available to get your garden growing now. Lee is giving ***tours into his propagation garden-house*** to view his latest plantings and budding seedlings for late spring and summer gardens (reserve your favorites today). Give up *that* lawn, and get a garden growing! Think of the money you will save, the exercise and Vitamin D you'll get, and how healthy you will be - one vegetable plant continues to produce pounds of fresh nutritious vegetables throughout it's growing season, as do herb and fruit plants. Then, compost your plant leftovers, feed your worms, and enrich your soil for the next plantings.

Lee takes special orders to build his **CUSTOM GARDEN PROJECTS** for island gardens and beyond. Choose from: cold frames, garden trugs, tuteurs, garden window boxes, planting benches, potting tables, raised garden bed frames, bird and bat houses, worm compost bins, and **living garden walls** - perfect for growing herbs, succulents, and smaller vegetables in a small footprint (terraces, balconies, condo and apartment garden spots, inside or out front of restaurants, or inside business lobbies). *These living garden walls are perfect for providing some good green air cleaning, too.*

#### **GIFT "SHOPTALK":**

MOM might also like an iron birdbath, feeder or GARDEN PLAQUE, a bicycle planter or stone garden statue, a blown glass HUMMINGBIRD or BUTTERFLY FEEDER, whimsical clock, or music box, a floral scented **HARBOR GLOW SOY CANDLE**, or some GOAT'S MILK SOAP, an old-time teapot, teacups, or hankie, an island-made **EARTH, WOMAN, AND FIRE** flower vase or a sea glass wind chime made by **ISLAND THOUGHTS**, a garden thermometer, garden tee-shirt, goat-skin GLOVES, tool or apron, a FAIRY collectible figurine, a pewter bookmark or bird books by **CRAIG JOHNSON & JOY KOSOLA**, a sparkly lapel pin, or a NECKLACE made by **WHIDBEY INSPIRATIONS**, or jewelry made from Grandma's silverware or Grandpa's old watch . . . Our garden gift shop is filled with unique treasures for every unique and treasured mom! And, we have the *most beautiful GIFT & GREETING CARDS on the planet*, many made by **local Whidbey and PacNW artists**. We also offer **GIFT CERTIFICATES** to let Mom choose her own Mother's Day Gift.

We showcase over 150 product lines (most made in the USA and Canada) in our quaint garden themed gift shop, and we consign with over a dozen local artists and crafters.

Our display gardens will be blooming by Mother's Day, and we are certified as a **Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary**. We invite you to stop by and enjoy our display gardens

for family photos, picnics, and gatherings on Mom's special day (and throughout the year). And, new this year, our **BOCCE BALL COURT and PICNIC AREA** for your enjoyment (bocce set rental by donation).

Hope to see you soon and having some fun here at Hummingbird Farm! And, as we always say, share your warm smile with someone needing some sunshine. It may make all the difference in the world because *kindness does matter*.

Warmest regards,

Lori, Lee, Thomas, and Emma Spear & . . . Kiona, Ruston, Nahcotta, and Yakima (our purring mischief makers), Name` (our energetic garden pal), and *Pepper* (our garden greeter)

Hummingbird Farm Nursery & Gardens

*The gardening and gift shop gem of Whidbey Island*

2319 Zylstra Road (at Ft. Nugent Road)

Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Wednesdays - Sundays, 10AM-6PM

(Mondays and Tuesdays by chance and by appointment)

360-679-5044 voice (it's planting season, so leave a message)

360-679-6926 fax

[www.hummingbirdfarmnursery.com](http://www.hummingbirdfarmnursery.com)

[info@hummingbirdfarmnursery.com](mailto:info@hummingbirdfarmnursery.com)

[www.facebook/hummingbird.farm.nursery.and.gardens.com](http://www.facebook/hummingbird.farm.nursery.and.gardens.com)

As always, print out the **LAST PAGE** of this newsletter and use as a **25% OFF COUPON** for any *regularly-priced* gift item or plant. This offer good through May 31, 2012.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29th, 1-3PM ~ Gardeners' Exchange/Swap meet

TUESDAY, MAY 1st, 10-11AM - Gathering For Gardening, *Creating Room to Grow*

TUESDAY, MAY 1st, 11AM-1PM - Hands-on Garden Workshop, *Build a Garden Trug that Mom Will Love*

SAT/SUN, MAY 12-13th, 10AM-6PM, - "*Pot A Plant*" For Mom in the Nursery

SUNDAY, MAY 20th, 3-4PM - Plant A Row "Get Ready to Plant" Meeting

SUNDAY, MAY 27th, 1-3PM - Gardeners' Exchange/Swap Meet

SATURDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1-3PM, Calliope's Craft Corner - Nature's Classroom

**For questions, email us.**