

# Three Bellingham Events Promote Art, Fun, and Sustainable Living

by Joanna Nesbit

With a tanked economy and people scaling back, the need to recycle, reuse, and stay local has never felt so compelling. Three upcoming Bellingham events combine art and reuse in a creative twist that'll have you looking at "trash" with new eyes. Mark your calendars for the 2009 Recycled Art & Fashion Show, Procession

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of the Species parade, and the first-ever Appliance Art Revival.

First up is the RE Store's **8th Annual Recycled Art & Fashion Show**. The juried art show features art comprised of 75 percent materials that would have otherwise wound up in the landfill. "We're on the cusp of people rediscovering how useful their trash can be, especially as economic times and leadership are shifting," says Jason Darling, Education and Marketing Coordinator of the RE Store.



Wonderwoman on Wheels by Diane Kurzyna aka Ruby Reusable.  
Photo courtesy of the RE Store.

The recycled art exhibits will be displayed from April 3-25 in three locations: Allied Arts of Whatcom County Gallery, the RE Store, and WWU's Viking Union (April 6-24). Art patrons can catch gallery receptions on three different dates. (Check individual websites for gallery hours.)

**Friday, April 3:** The Allied Arts Gallery, 1418 Cornwall Avenue, will feature the work of professional and semi-professional artists. The reception is from 6-10pm as part of the Downtown Art Walk. For more information visit [www.alliedarts.org](http://www.alliedarts.org).

**Saturday, April 4:** The RE Store, 2309 Meridian St., will host a reception from 3-6pm, featuring the work of children ages K-12, as well as live music, refreshments, and the RE Store's hands-on Recycled Art Station for all ages. More info: [www.re-store.org](http://www.re-store.org).

**Thursday, April 9:** The WWU Viking Gallery, 507 Viking Union, will host a reception from 6-8pm, exhibiting pieces from higher education students (university, community college, technical college) with an emphasis on art and industrial design. Info: <http://gallery.as.wvu.edu/Gallery>.

For Skagit Valley residents, La Conner's Museum of Northwest Art will also feature a ReArt exhibit, titled *Finds Refined*, running through June 14. More info: [www.museumofnwart.org](http://www.museumofnwart.org).

Don't miss the **ReArt Haute Trash Fashion Show** on Saturday, April 11, 8-9:30pm, at the Wild Buffalo, 208 W.

Holly St. Darling says past "fashions" have been amazing, ranging from crocheted plastic bags to bicycle inner tubes, and he expects this year to be no different. Only ten percent of the design can be fabric. This is a 21+ event.



12' tall spider at Procession of the Species.  
Photo by Thor Myre.

On Saturday, May 2, the **Procession of the Species** parade will drum and dance its way through downtown Bellingham, beginning at the downtown library and ending at Maritime Heritage Park. Line-up begins at 3pm, with departure at 4pm (note the new time!). Three rules govern the parade: no motorized vehicles, no spoken or written words, and no live animals. The parade's mission, says organizer Carol Oberton, is to celebrate who we are as a creative species.

"It's also a way to look to our natural world for inspiration," she says.

Workshops to create puppets, instruments, and costumes will be held on Saturdays throughout April at the Environmental Learning Center, 514 W. Holly St. The workshops are free, and most materials will be supplied, but signing up in advance is recommended. More info: [www.bpots.org](http://www.bpots.org).

After the parade ends at Maritime Heritage Park, parade-goers can head across the street for the first-ever **Appliance Art Revival** at Chuckanut Brewery & Kitchen, 601 W. Holly St., 5-10pm. This family-friendly event features an art show of art created with reused appliance items from Bellingham's Appliance Depot, 802 Marine Dr., a business dedicated to repairing or recycling donated appliances. The Art Revival will also feature two bands, kids' activities, a "Junk has Soul" workshop with artist Thor Myhre, and disc golf in Maritime Heritage Park. Beer and barbecue will be available for purchase. Cover cost is \$5. For more on Myhre's "Junk" workshops, visit [www.thormyhre.com](http://www.thormyhre.com).



The Owl was created by Ben Mann out of a dryer top, range drip pans and a mixing beater. Photo courtesy of Appliance Depot.

Conceived by Dallas Betz, an Americorps Vista volunteer at Appliance Depot, the Art Revival is a collaborative effort to increase awareness of sustainability and reuse. Only twenty percent of the appliances donated to

Appliance Depot can be repaired for resale. The rest must be recycled. With the Art Revival, the Appliance Depot hopes to inspire people to think about ways to reuse appliance parts. For example, people come in to buy washing machine barrels to use as fire pits, says Duane Jager, Executive Director.

"Recycling is very energy intensive," says Jager. "To recycle appliances, we have to ship them out, melt them down, and use virgin materials to bring more in. So reuse and repair are way more efficient."

For more info on Appliance Depot, visit [www.reuseworks.org](http://www.reuseworks.org). For the art show, call 527-2646. And if you have dead appliances, Appliance Depot is looking for donations.

*Joanna Nesbit is a frequent contributor to Entertainment News Northwest. Her work has appeared in FamilyFun, Wondertime, and online. She also writes for Bellingham's parent website, [www.neighborhood-kids.com](http://www.neighborhood-kids.com), where she can be found blogging as Moxie Mom on the parent life.*

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## Home & Garden

**Birchwood Garden Club Meeting & Plant Sale** – The Birchwood Garden Club holds their monthly meeting Wed., April 1, 7pm, at the Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room, 121 Prospect Street. Guest speaker will be Maureen Phillips, lecturing on horticultural therapy, using plants, gardening and nature to improve human well-being. • **Annual Plant Sale** will be held on Sat., April 11, 9am-noon at the Bellingham Public Library, lower level, across from the Children's Library, 210 Central Ave. The Club will be selling annuals, perennials, specialty plants and gardening miscellaneous. We also pride ourselves in the best gardening advice in town. Come early for best selection. Monies obtained stay local and go into the beautification of our wonderful city! More info: [www.tsparks/bgc.com](http://www.tsparks/bgc.com).

**Workshops at Garden Spot Nursery – Sat., April 5:** Designing with Ornamental Grasses by Diva Karen Teper, no class fee. • **April 11:** Make It and Take It Hanging Tomato Basket, \$25. • **April 18:** Make It and Take It Lynden Style Hanging Baskets, special discounts. • **April 25:** Make It and Take It Trailing Petunia Basket, special discounts. • **May 2:** Make It and Take It Shade Basket Design, special discounts. • **May 4-11:** Celebrate Moms. More info: 676-5480 or visit [www.garden-spot.com](http://www.garden-spot.com).

**Whatcom Horticultural Society Spring Lecture Series – Wed., April 15:** "Plants for All Seasons, Broadleaved Evergreens for Temperate Climates" with Sean Hogan, 7:30pm, Whatcom Museum. • **Wed., May 20:** "Better Gardens with

Better Plants" with Richie Steffen, 7:30pm, Whatcom Museum. • **Wed., June 17:** "A Passion for Plants" with Mary Toomey, PhD, 7:30pm, Whatcom Museum. Tickets at the door: \$10 general, \$5 members. Info: 738-6933, [www.whatcomhortsociety.org](http://www.whatcomhortsociety.org).

**D.U.P.I. (digger uppers and putter inners) Plant Sale** will be held on Sat., May 2, 9am-3pm – Join us at a new location and earlier weekend at the Ferndale Farmer's Market in Riverwalk Park. Head towards Pioneer Park in Ferndale for parking and please bring boxes to carry your items. Plants from members' gardens and related crafts will be available for purchase.

**Master Gardener Plant Sale and Fair** – This popular annual event is on Sat., May 2, 9am-2pm at Hovander Homestead Park, 5299 Neilsen Rd., Ferndale. We will be offering carefully tended and well-identified perennials, herbs, and trees for purchase along with a selection of tomato starts suitable for growing in the Pacific NW. Karen Teper from Wind Poppy Farm will inform us at noon on the "Care and Use of Ornamental Grasses." Short seminars will answer gardening questions and Master Gardeners will be on hand to offer tips. The Family Activity Table will be a place where children can decorate a pot, fill it with soil, and add a plant. Gardeners will enjoy food sales, vendors, and displays. Sorry, no pot re-cycling this year. Sponsored by the WSU Whatcom Master Gardener Foundation and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation. Info: 676-6736.