

THE NEW WESTMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Club address: Suite 392, 104—1015 Columbia St., New Westminster, V3M 6V3

www.newwesthortsociety.org

Editor: Audrey Barnes, 604-526-8284 before 8pm;

February, 2005

CLUB CALENDAR:

TONIGHT: Feb 16, 7:45pm. JOE WAI, architect of Vancouver's Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden on "CLASSICAL CHINESE GARDENS". *Annual membership (\$10) due.*

MARCH MEETING: Wed. Mar 16, 7:45pm. Queens Avenue United Church Gymnasium. SCOTT HAMMOND, of Solar Greenhouse & Garden Supply, on "PROPAGATION". The emphasis of his talk will be cuttings—why and how they form new plants and techniques for success. If you have a specific question, about a plant or technique, tell Audrey tonight and she will pass your request onto him. A follow-up hands-on propagation workshop is scheduled for Sat Apr 2. Time and place will be announced next month.

APRIL MEETING: Tues, Apr 12, 7:45pm. Centennial Lodge, Queens Park (back to our regular meeting spot!). DARREN SILCOX, of Arbour Care, "PRUNING QUESTIONS & ANSWERS". Again we will be having a follow-up hands-on workshop—on Apr 16.

CLUB OUTINGS:

Plant sale organizational meeting: Tues, Mar 8, 7:30pm at Audrey's. This is a date change from that listed in the mailer. The meeting is at the start of the executive meeting. Date clashes by several executive warranted the change. Tell Audrey if you would like to attend. There is a sign-up sheet.

B.C. Council of Garden Clubs Meeting: Sat, Mar 19, 9am to 3pm at PNE Boardroom (gate #2, off Renfrew). Speakers include Gerry Gibbens of the VanDusen Botanical Gardens and Rudy Pinkowski on Exotic Plants and Palms. The \$20 admission fee (payable tonight to Mary, or up to 5pm, Mar 8 to Audrey, 604-526-8284) includes morning refreshments and lunch. This meeting marks the return of the best raffle in town. The silent auction experiment has been terminated.

Plant a Row, Grow a Row Gardener's Party: Thurs, Mar 31, 6 to 9pm, St. Aidan's Church. For more details, see Plant a Row, Grow a Row article.

Hands-on Propagation Workshop: Sat. Apr 2. Time and Place to be determined. Try your hand at propagating that plant you covet! Materials supplied. More details coming.

Hands-on Pruning Workshop: Sat. Apr 16. We are looking for a site to hold this workshop—a garden with a good variety of shrubs and trees. Why not volunteer your yard as our workshop site. Be the lucky club member who will receive expert advice on how to care for plants. Two adjacent gardens would work nicely. Unfortunately, our workshop will be too late to show correct rose and winter fruit tree pruning.

OUR ANNUAL PLANT SALE: Sun May 1, 10am to 4pm, inside Royal Square Mall. Preparation has already started. See "Plant Sale Extravaganza, Part 1" for details. The sign-up calendar for this month's plant preparation work is on the head table—and a sheet to list plants you would like to donate. The sheets for actual sale day duties will be available at the April meeting—as will be "Plant Sale Extravaganza, Part 2".

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: by Audrey

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!

Boy, one minute you are looking at the coming year as a blank slate, the next you're in a panic—how will we get all those things we want to do, done!?! Check the last page for an outline of events (not including meetings!) for 2005. Quite a number! Hopefully by November, we will have a check beside each item. That would be great! We think there is something for everyone there. If not, tell us what you would like to do next year. *Please come forward if you have ideas about any of the outings—we value (underline that, value) your input!* For some, we drastically need your assistance—even if it is just opening your garden to club members. We need a site for our pruning workshop. We need gardens to tour in July. We need a garden as our picnic site. We need ponds to visit for the June tour/workshop. We need your BARAGA plot to view.

Your executive is committed to making 2005 the best year yet. This hard working crew is awaiting your input.

President: Audrey Barnes (604-526-8284 before 8pm)

Vice-President: Joan Miller (604-540-1929)

Secretary: Lori Jenvey (604-644-8266)

Treasurer: Mary Barnard (604-525-5928)

Parlour Show Secretary: Ellen Berg (604-525-7827)

Member-at-Large: Buff O'Shaughnessy (604-526-3919)

Roy Pegler (604-520-6467)

Lesley Wood (604-520-1959)

LIFE MEMBERS:

As we start a new year in the club, we salute our members who have started 25 or more years in the club. As an acknowledgement of their longevity of involvement in NWHS, these members have the privilege of no longer paying membership fees.

Elsie Ansdell

Joyce Goodman

Gladys Jacobson

Gordon & Verna Mackintosh

Norma McFadden

Molly Stone

Bill & Gerda Swan

George & Clarice White

MARION BOLTON:

Sadly, Marion passed away just after Christmas, on Dec 29th. Such a tiny person brimming with good will and good cheer. Always a twinkle in her eye. Needless to say, she will be missed. The club has made a donation to the Red Cross in her name.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: a review of our last meeting. What a great party! Good friends, good food, great raffle prizes, worthy recipients of the awards—not much more you could ask for except maybe remember to get the entrance doors unlocked. Brrrrr.... it was cold for Mary and Roy greeting everyone at the entrance and the tables nearby. Sorry. The raffle was a complete success—we sold a whopping \$550 in tickets!! A record by far! Audrey & Mary did an executive decision in raising the club's donation to the **Royal Columbian Hospital Auxiliary** to \$700. The following article by club member, Nina Osanic, gives tells you about this very important organization and how you can participate. Thanks Nina.

THE ROYAL COLUMBIAN AUXILIARY:

By Nina Osanic.

This is a short community appeal. It's fitting to be in a Horticultural Newsletter because gardeners are notoriously sharing, caring folk. The Royal Columbian Auxiliary is very much in need of volunteers.

Volunteering is good for the soul. One is left with a satisfying feeling in the knowledge that you have contributed in a real way to your community. When politicians say one person counts and can make a difference, it really is so.

There are many areas in the hospital in which you can work. Some of the areas are as follows: Lottery booth, ambulant care, emergency, chemotherapy, crafts, shopping cart, gift shop, heart unit. (There are approximately 650 open heart surgeries each year)

If working in the hospital is not to your liking, you would enjoy our "New-to-You" thrift shop manned by volunteers. It is a couple of blocks east of the hospital on Columbia Street.

We also have a dedicated group of knitters who provide the gift shop with baby clothes, slippers, sweaters and the like. You can give as many hours as you are able—a few a week or even a few a month. There are many areas which men would find interesting. The lottery booth always needs help.

All money raised goes to patient care and hospital equipment. The NWHS donation goes to the equipment fund. We do make a difference. The auxilliary contribute approximately \$200,000 each year. It is provided with a "wish list" upon which it votes.

We are also grateful for the donation of clean clothes and other items for the "New-to-You" shop. NWHS donated the items left over from the Silent Auction to the shop.

For more information call Marjorie at 604-469-6890.

WE USE OLD "STUFF": If you are relatively new member of NWHS, you may not be aware that the club is always on the lookout for certain items it can re-use.

- Venitian Blinds: 1", vinyl, pale colored. We use them for our plant tags. It is best that the blinds are just dropped off whole since that makes the cleaning and cutting easier.

- Plant pots and trays: Plant pots of all sizes. Plastic trays without the interior divisions which are too hard to store.

- Unwanted Christmasy "stuff": We tear it apart and re-use (or perhaps, just refurbish) in our Christmas Raffle prizes. Blinds, pots and trays can be left in the carport of 117 7th Ave. Christmasy items should be left at the back (not basement) door. Many thanks.

PARLOUR SHOW NEWS: by Ellen

As in past years, my first report of the year will be covering the 2004 Showbench Awards. This year, along with the list of the winners in the different categories, I have quoted the monetary prizes awarded. More details on the Parlour Show Rules and Prizes are on page 2 & 3 of the Parlour Show Schedule. A print-out of these two pages, or the complete schedule, are available at the Parlour Show table tonight. There are a few changes to the show schedule this year—a few typos have been corrected, some changes for the July schedule. We've increased the photo contest prize awards. The changes are listed on the cover page as well as incorporated into the schedule.

Here are the 2004 Award Winners:

Overall Awards: for having the highest overall point total for the showbench

First Place: (Prize of \$50) MOLLY STONE (430 3/4 pts)

Second Place: (Prize of \$35) JAN POTTER (356 3/4 pts)

Third Place: (Prize of \$25) ELLEN BERG (342 pts)

Category Awards: for having the highest points in each of the three categories (Prize of \$5 to each winner)

Flower & Plants: MOLLY STONE (294 pts)

Fruits & Vegetables: JAN POTTER (170 1/2 pts)

Decorative: ELLEN BERG (30 1/2 pts)

Perfect 5's Awards:

High 5 Award: for scoring the highest number of perfect scores (Prize of \$30 divided between the winners) ELLEN BERG & JULIA GOULDEN, each earning two perfect scores.

Perfect 5's (Prize of \$5 for each perfect score): ELSIE ANSDELL (1), ELLEN BERG (2), JULIA GOULDEN (2), COLLEEN GRAHAM (1), SALLY IVERSON (1), JAN POTTER (1), MOLLY STONE (1)

Photo Contest: Prize of \$5 to each winner.

Colour in the Garden: LORI JENVEY

Animals Enjoying the Garden: DIANE ESCALANTE

Overall or Partial View of "Non-Commercial" Garden: AUDREY BARNES

Congratulations everyone! It's hard to believe it's time to start another year. Hopefully we've inspired a few more members to "strut their stuff" on the show bench and to strive for the elusive "Perfect 5". I believe the record number of perfect scores for 1 member to earn in a single year was 5. I would like to see if we can match or top that. Don't forget to call on Julia or myself with any queries regarding the Parlour Show.

Check our website for photos of the winners.

FIRST PARLOUR SHOW...April 2005. Hope to see you there!

CONTAINER CONTEST:

At this moment, this is not officially part of the parlour show. The winner of our inaugural contest was DIANE ESCALANTE who walked away with the prize: a one year membership in NWHS.

E-MAIL UPDATE: Just a repeat of our standard request that if you have a change in your e-mail address, please forward it to Lesley Wood and continue to receive her most enticing meeting announcements. Want to get on the list? Guess how you do it—send her an email!

PLANT A ROW, GROW A ROW by Joan Miller

(This is a program for collecting excess produce grown by home gardeners for distribution through the Food Bank.)

New Westminster Plant a Row, Grow a Row had its best year ever in 2004. In 2002 we collected 5,000 lbs of produce for the Food Bank. In 2003, we doubled that, donating 10,000 lbs. Last year we increased the total to 20,000 lbs, a staggering amount when you think about the time and effort required to plant, weed and harvest all those vegetables and fruits. People donated food from their home gardens or fruit trees, started seeds, and planted, weeded and harvested in our Queensborough plot. Thanks to the generosity of Mary Ballon of West Coast Seeds we were able to harvest tons of food at their trial farm in Ladner. St. Aidan's Church continues to offer us a place to work and helps us weigh the produce as it comes in on Sunday mornings.

However, our success has made the program increasingly difficult to administer. It's almost as if we've outgrown ourselves. This year we've got a group of great people who can help Margaret Stewart and Clalude leDoux (overall co-ordinators) with all the emailing and phoning and organizing that goes into making PAR GAR work so well, and that should help a lot. Now we're looking for volunteers who would like to plant, weed & harvest in Queensborough, go out to farms to gather food, help us pick fruit from back yard trees and, of course, grow and donate food from their own gardens.

If you'd like to volunteer or find out more about the program, come to our **Annual Gardeners' Party** on March 31st at St. Aidan's Church from 6-9pm. St. Aidan's is located in the West End, at the corner of 7th Ave and 14th St. Claude has, as usual, lined up a great group of speakers, including Mary Ballon, Conway Lum, Brian Minter and Alan Reid. Where else could you hear these speakers for the price of a donation to the Food Bank? If you'd like more information, call me at 604-540-1929 or call the PAR GAR line at 604-526-4914

NWHS SCHOLARSHIP: by Lori Jenvey

As directed by the general membership last summer, we will be awarding the New Westminster Horticultural Society Scholarship at the June Awards Banquet (2005) in the amount of \$250.

The Royal City Education Foundation will choose the successful candidate based on criteria set forth by NWHS. Basically the criteria are:

- The scholarship will be awarded to a student graduating from New Westminster Senior Secondary and who is a resident of New Westminster at the time of graduation.
- The student must intend to enroll in a degree, diploma or certificate program offered at a post-secondary institution accredited by a provincial government; the studies pursued must be in horticulture, landscape architecture, agriculture, botany or related field dealing with plants/plant science. We will provide a list of possible program types for reference by the adjudication committee.
- Preference is to be given to a student who intends to pursue these studies at an accredited post-secondary institution located in B.C.

The student must apply to the Royal City Education Foundation for release of the scholarship funds within five years of graduating from NWSS.

(Many thanks to the scholarship committee (Carole Forsythe, Lori Graham, Lori Jenvey and Lesley Wood) for developing these guidelines.)

IN YOUR VEGETABLE PATCH: by the Urban

Gardener also known as Roy Pegler. Roy (604-520-6467) welcomes your vegetable gardening questions.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY!

Now, this month, is the time to start thinking of what we want to start sowing and planting especially the cool weather crops such as early green peas, broad beans, carrots and garlic. Now is the time to seed indoors broccoli, lettuce, Swiss chard and spinach to transplant out in March.

Before you start working in the garden, think before you dig. Plan, plan and plan. It is so important.

- How many hours and dollars do I want to spend gardening?
- What do I really want to grow?
- Do I want enough produce to freeze, can & preserve?
- How will I integrate my kitchen garden into the overall landscaping?
- What site makes the most sense in terms of appearance, sunshine, competing plantings, microclimates and access to water and equipment?
- What additives does my soil need?
- What will I do about mulching?
- Do I need to fence the garden?
- Do I want raised beds or a garden at ground level?

GardenWorks Appreciation Day: Thurs Feb 17th. Get 15% off anything, including sale items (just a few minor exceptions!). No, you don't get your garden club discount of 10% plus the 15%—only the 15%.

NEW CLUB PICNIC LOCATION!

WILL IT BE YOUR GARDEN??? After enjoying Anne and Eric's beautiful garden for several years (thanks guys!), it is time we move onto a new location. We need a relatively large garden. There are usually about 50-60 in attendance at the picnic. It should be central to New Westminster as it is anticipated most of the toured gardens will be in that vicinity. It must have a good variety of plants, a necessity for our "Garden Stumps" contest. Our tentative date for the tour and picnic is Saturday, July 23rd. If you would like to volunteer your garden, speak to Audrey. Many thanks.

PROPAGATING SEEDS?

You might want to check out a couple of websites recommended in the latest Heritage Perennials newsletter. <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/PUBS/GARDEN/07409.html> is Colorado State University's good basic site on sowing seeds indoors. The Tom Clothier Germination Databases give directions for a multitude of seeds, many very tricky: <http://tomclothier.hort.net/index.html>. The electronic newsletter from Heritage (Valleybrook) is easy to subscribe to. Just check on www.perennials.com and sign up. Also on that site there is a "How-to Page" which has articles on "Saving and Starting Perennial Seeds" and "Where to Get Perennial Seeds".

Looking for unusual seeds? **Seedy Saturday** at Van Dusen Gardens is Sat, Feb 26 in the Floral Hall, 10am-4pm. Admission by donation. Heritage seeds highlighted.

CLUB DISCOUNTS:

We've been promising this list for month's now—finally we have a partial listing. Many garden centers and nurseries offer you, a club member, a discount upon showing of your membership card before the sale is rung up. Not all establishments do so. It is entirely their decision—not a privilege you have a right to claim. If you are unsure, with your card ready, ask them if they give a discount when you get to the till. If they say “yes”, thank them generously for their generosity. If they say “no”, be gracious. If a discount is offered, usually it is 10%—however, that is not fixed and the amount can vary for different items within a store. Carry your current membership card.

Amsterdam Greenhouses and Garden Centre

19100 Dewdney Trunk Rd, Pitt Meadows

Art Knapp Plantland

1300 Dominion Ave, Port Coquitlam

10840 No 5 Rd, Richmond

4391 King George Hwy, Surrey

1401 Hornby St, Vancouver

David Hunter Garden Center

2084 West Broadway, Vancouver

15175 - 72nd Ave, Surrey

Dig This

1551 Johnstone, Granville Island, Vancouver

GardenWorks

All location including GardenWorks at Mandeville

Murray Nurseries

3140 West 57th Ave, Vancouver

Northwest Landscape & Stone Supply

5883 Byrne Rd, Burnaby

Rain Forest Nurseries

1470—227th St, Langley

Solar Greenhouse and Garden Supply

4752 Imperial St, Burnaby

If you are aware of other establishments offering a discount, tell Joan or Audrey and we will update the list.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT NURSERIES:

MANDEVILLE GARDEN CENTRE: As of New Years Eve this became the latest GardenWorks and is being treated as a regular GardenWorks outlet. Not to worry: Conway Lum is still there—as is most of the staff. On a recent visit, it was noticed that the organic food store is gone. You can now use your club membership card for a discount. Also, at least for the time being, Mandeville Ardent Gardener cards are being honored.

THE PERENNIAL GARDENS, Maple Ridge: This has long been a mecca to find unusual plants. They have decided to close their retail nursery and instead are becoming a wholesale outlet, offering their plants at garden centers throughout BC under the name “Red Barn Plants”. Some of their offerings may still be labelled “Perennial Gardens”. Their most informative catalogue will no longer be printed but on their website, www.thegarden.ca, there is a catalogue of their plants to be found in garden centers. For a few weekends a year they will be having open house—an opportunity for you to browse and covet and, yes, buy at their nursery (13139– 224th St, Maple Ridge). First open house is Fri Apr 22 to Sun Apr 24.

THIS COMING YEAR IN NWHS:

In the mailer we said that we were going to try to do all things we didn't do last year. Here is the *potential* schedule of events. The calendar is pretty packed. It is your participation that makes a difference. If there is anything you would like to help with—or have ideas on—talk to an executive member.

March

- Plant sale preparation
- B.C. Council of Garden Clubs meeting

April

- Plant sale preparation
- Propagation workshop
- Pruning workshop

May

- PLANT SALE
- Hyack Festival: We've been asked to participate. Do you have any ideas how we could?

June

- Vancouver Garden Show (formerly VanDusen F & G Show). Do you want to help with our container entry?
- Shopping trip
- Pond mini-tour/workshop: for those members thinking of installing a pond. Do you have a pond we can visit?

July

- Visit to Mountain View Conservation and Breeding Centre
- Our garden tour and picnic

August

- Visit the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden
- Tour of BARAGA Do you have a plot that we can visit?

September

- CanWest Show
- Queensborough Fair

October

- Fort Langley Cranberry Festival
- Miller Garden (Seattle) tour
- B.C. Council of Garden Clubs meeting

November

- Christmas Crafts

THIS 'N' THAT:

- Happy Birthday to MOLLY STONE, who turns 39 today.
- It seems that at every meeting, someone leaves something of value behind. Audrey is the official host of the “Lost and Found”. After every event, everything gets swept up and she takes it home with her. As you may know, her number is 604-526-8284. No calls after 8pm please.
- Mary has stalled the remaking of name tags until she sees how many wander in after our Christmas break. If you do not need a new tag, please tell her. Why make up extras that are not needed? Speaking of name tags, PLEASE WEAR YOURS at the meeting. There are so many new faces....
- Brita, Audrey's neighbour, has decided against keeping the berms of soil in her backyard i.e. she has lots of “non-topsoil” to give away. Need some? Her number is 604-515-1843.