

THE NEW WESTMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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www.newwesthortsociety.org

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CLUB CALENDAR:

JULY MEETING: Tonight, Tues, July 12th, 7:45.

URSULA DOLE and MARIA KEATING on "THE EUROPEAN CHAFER". These two ladies have been hired by The Chafer Study to get the word out to the public. Do you know of an interested group? Talk to them after the presentation. Tonight, we have our own presentation. They will be highlighting the latest facts known about the chafer, the results of The Chafer Study (to which the club donated money last year), and what we can do to prevent our lawns from being demolished because of the pest. They anticipate you will have plenty of questions. The publication "The European Chafer: A Management Strategy for the Lower Mainland" is available in the foyer and at the head table. Pick up copies for your neighbours. There is also a scanned version on our website.

AUGUST MEETING: Tues, Aug 9th, 7:45 MICHAEL LeGEYT, Vice-Chair of the Campaign for the "Planting the Seed" Capital Project for VanDusen Botanical Garden, will give a slide presentation and discussion "VANDUSEN GARDENS: ITS ONGOING EVOLUTION". He will follow the history of the garden from its beginning through to its future. He will also highlight the many ways we can use and enjoy this gem of Vancouver. In lieu paying the speaker and honorarium, we propose the club donate some money toward the Capital Project. Details elsewhere in the newsletter.

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Tues, Sept 13, 7:45. DIANNE GAINES, of Van Noort Bulb Co, on "BULBS". We anticipate that Diane will be presenting a slide show of the latest in "must haves" as well as answering our questions on their planting and care.

OCTOBER MEETING: Tues, Oct 11, LYNNE CASSIDY & MERVE LUTES of the Fraser Valley Orchid Society, on "ORCHIDS". They will entice us with the variety of orchids suitable for your home and the ease of which to care for them—and bring plants for sale at the meeting. The talk will be just in time to lure you to their show and plant sale on Oct 22 and 23.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Silent Auction & AGM. Our Silent Auction month this year differs from 2004. It is always in Oct or Nov—which month is chosen depends on the availability of our desired speaker. As with last year, if you are doing a clean-out and find you have a slew of auction items that you "don't want hanging around the house", please arrange with Audrey to have them stored in some corner of her basement until auction time. They will be pre-processed there before the meeting. At the AGM we select the 2006 NWHS executive. Are you interested?

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: by Audrey

Ah, there seems to be a bit of a lull and I can catch my breath. Actually enjoyed having the unexpected Saturday free last weekend—and the one coming up too! Wow! Maybe I'll get those weeds pulled. One good thing, with this weather they are growing fast and easy to spot and grab.

It was a pleasure to see so many of you add your names to the "Interested in Being on Plant Sale Committee" sheet passed around last month. It is an event which will just improve with some of you willing to take on that little bit more responsibility. After this year's sale I went through the sign-up sheets, the plant log and my memory to tall the number of members involved in the sale. The numbers are very impressive:

55 donated plant material from their yards

52 helped in the yard an/or with tags

35 involved Sat night in shipping from yard and setting up

32 helped on Day of Sale

86 Total number involved in sale

These estimations are low, especially the Day of Sale figures. Many of you just dropped in to help. At that point the roster showed 176 members. Great team effort! Thanks!

ALL THAT MONEY: Unlike last year when we actively solicited ideas of how to use our sale money, this year we are just sitting back. *But if you have a worthy idea, please talk to one of the executive!* If something worthy is proposed, we will consider it. There are potential projects which we will tell you about when more research is done.

VOTE TO GIVE MONEY TO THE CAPITAL PROJECT FOR VANDUSEN BOTANICAL GARDEN: In lieu of offering our speakers next month an honorarium, the executive suggests that we donate \$250 or more to this fund. Tonight we will vote on this.

POND WORKSHOP: What a useful morning! About 20 members and spouses (i.e. slaves!) viewed 4 ponds and visited Northwest Landscape & Stone Supply. Many thanks to **Lorna Cloutier, Lesia Gojda, David Tamblin & Claude LeDoux** (and David Nelson at Northwest). It was great of you to take time to enlighten as to the ins and outs of building and maintaining a pond. The final tally re having a pond: the "ins" far outnumber the "outs". The most recently constructed ponds, Lorna's & Claude's, were by far the most technically complex. (You can check these two out on our garden tour this month.) But viewing the older ponds of Lesia & David, indicated that "low-tech" works well too. The tour of Northwest Supply was very good. David Nelson gave us a tour of previously explored corners of the yard, discussing the uses of the different materials. Ask about their club discount.

CLUB OUTINGS:

Annual Garden Tour & Pot-luck Picnic:

Saturday, July 23rd. Rain or Shine! Pick up the map and itinerary at the head table. If you are coming to the picnic, sign up to indicate the number in your party and what food you plan to contribute. You can sign-up after tonight by phoning or emailing Audrey. *There is no sign-up sheet for the tour, just for the picnic.* This is one of our premiere social events of the year! Although it is an event put on by members for the members and their spouses, attendance is not strictly for members only. You are welcome to bring a close personal friend on the tour and to the picnic but don't abuse the privilege by bringing a horde. As we have stated before, no small children on the tour section of the event. It is just not fair to the owners of the gardens. Children are invited to the picnic but be aware that Ellen says their garden is not absolutely kid proof and they have a large dog.

You will be delighted with our selection of gardens this year. Some are return visits by popular demand. We have 6 gardens (7 counting Ellen's) to visit and after the first two, driving is negligible. We will be visiting them in sequence to allow the garden owners to join the tour. First up is **Claude LeDoux's** unbelievable garden—so much so, we are allowing 40 minutes instead of the standard 30 minutes to view it. There might be a bit of a crush since he is also on the Show 'n' Shine Garden Tour scheduled for the same day. **Lorna Cloutier** is our second garden—you may remember it last year—cacti, greenhouse, brand new huge pond. It is maturing nicely. **Treva Zilm** is relatively new to the club and to her garden. At the moment she is just discovering it's microclimates. Unsure of the soil conditions, she has been experimenting with containers. She is hoping for a few suggestions especially for the front where she removed a huge tree. **Julia Goulden's** boulevard planting at the corner of Durham and 2nd is famous its sunflowers. Wait until you see what is behind that immaculate hedge! **Ann Paisley** is a brand new club member! After much enticing she joined last month. Just in time to get her garden on tour! It could be called the "voluptuous style". Hard to believe it was a slate of lawn when they purchased the house. She found the pond workshop very useful in visualizing her garden's next transformation. We visited **Marya McLellan's** garden eons ago. It has changed since. Part woodland, part sunny—great sense of enclosure. Marya's creativeness really shows. Finally our picnic site: **Ellen Berg's**. Last year the front yard and boulevard were lawn. Prompting by chafers accelerated the transformation. You'll find the back garden just perfect for the picnic.

The tour starts at 1pm, the picnic about 4:00 to 4:30. If you wish to drop off your pot-luck offering early, there is fridge space and coolers available. When planning your food contribution, make a portion which would be about 10 servings. Cold dishes are preferred as kitchen space is depleted very easily. Nes, Ellen's husband, has offered to act as the receiver of food—and to plug in the urns early so coffee and tea will be ready. The club supplies disposable plates, plastic cutlery and glasses for hot and cold beverages (tea, coffee, water, non-alcoholic punch and wine).

CLUB OUTINGS CONT'D:

Tour & picnic cont: We have the serving tables under control. We do have a fair number of chairs but if you have a lawn chair, please bring it. We are not sure if we will need additional umbrellas or awnings. If you have such, put it in your vehicle just in case. **PUT YOUR NAME ON ANYTHING THAT YOU BRING TO THE PICNIC! SOMETHING IS ALWAYS LEFT BEHIND!** If you arrive at the picnic before the horde, sit back and enjoy the garden. Grab a copy of the "Garden Stumps" contest and get a jump on it

Set up for the picnic is at noon. It shouldn't take very long. But as with most things, many hands makes work light. If you would like to help, talk to Ellen or Audrey tonight.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden: Sat, Aug 13, 1:00pm for our guided tour. If you were wowed by Joe Wai's Chinese Garden slides at our February meeting, you won't want to miss this tour. The garden is at the corner of Pender and Carrall in Vancouver's Chinatown—very close to Stadium Skytrain Station and the Chinatown parkade. If we have 10 or more we get the group rate: Adults \$7.50 (down from \$8.75); seniors \$5.75 (down from \$7.00). If we have more than 30, we will be split into 2 groups. If less than 10, we still plan to visit the gardens but will be paying full admission. We will be meeting at the gardens at 1pm and paying admission then. Deadline for signing up is our August meeting. Contact Audrey at non-meeting times.

Outing is open to non-members. Check out their website: www.vancouverchinesegarden.com

Mountainview Conservation and Breeding Centre: *Due to conflicting scheduling for the people who indicated interest in this outing, we have postponed the date until **Saturday, Sept 10th**, 10am to roughly noon.* Although this centre has nothing to do with gardening or horticulture but several of us thought it would be a very good outing just to socialize. This is the place in Langley that breeds the endangered animal species. Admission is not cheap but what you are really doing is making a donation to help with the survival of these species. If we have more than 10 in our group, we qualify for a group rate: adult admissions are reduced to \$20 (down from \$30); seniors over 65, \$15 (down from \$20), children 4-16 years, \$15 (down from \$20). Each admission includes membership in their society (10% discount in gift shop, \$5 off future admission). Audrey will be collected your admission at the gate and submitting it in lump sum. Cash would be appreciated. It is a narrated tram tour of 1 1/2 to 2 hours depending on how many times you get off to see animals. Since the tram is open, dress for the weather. It can be cool on a rainy day. After the tour, we would head to Fort Langley or Walnut Grove for lunch. Finding the centre is very easy. Take the #1 freeway to the 232 St exit (exit #66) north toward Fort Langley. At about 1.5km, watch for Rowlison Crescent on your right, turn onto it and drive another 1.5km. There you are! Very easy to find. Total trip took about a half hour from New Westminster in the time trial. Broucher for the Centre is on the bulletin board, or check out www.mtnviewfarms.com. Sign-up at head table or via Audrey. *This outing is open to non-members.* We just need 10 bodies for the discount. Please indicate if you want to attend at regular prices if we do not get the 10.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: a review of last month's presentation: HENK SUYS gave an excellent talk on "SHARPENING YOUR GARDEN TOOLS". Just the right amount of information to make us feel capable of honing our secateurs, pruners and shovels. What a treat too, to go home with a set of blades that actually cut. If you did miss the talk, keep an eye on Lee Valley Vancouver seminars and sign up. You won't regret it.

PARLOUR SHOW NEWS: by Ellen Berg

58 exhibits appeared on June's showbench: a nice selection of roses and the usual array of perennials. Unfortunately no "Perfect 5" was awarded. The top scorer was once again Colleen Graham (3 months in a row—congratulations!!) Colleen scored 73 1/2 points for her 17 exhibits. For those exhibitors who did not hear Jennifer's comments on not placing your exhibit in the right category...it's very simple: If your exhibit is in the wrong category, the judge's mark will be N.A.S. (Not As Scheduled) equaling 0 points. If you are in doubt about the category, ask Julia or myself. If we are unsure, we will initial your entry and the judge will then give points and direct it to the proper category. Julia and I are there to assist with questions, not to help set up as time is too short to allow it. Please arrive early enough to give yourself ample time to set up. Have fun in your garden and good luck tonight.

LIBRARY NEWS: by Monica Mowat

You may have noticed in the past months I have been regularly offering new books in the library. This month I have a new grouping of books on the following subjects: plants for shade, heirloom flowers, plants for fragrance, pruning, ferns, euphorbias, tulips and flowers in the home. However, I need some input from you. One, I need to know if I am meeting your reference needs. Two, I would also like to know what gardening subjects are important to you. By knowing these things I can reduce the library load to a group of books that are regularly in use, rather than carry inventory that no one wants to read. Please email me at [edited](mailto:edited@newwesthortssociety.org) for your suggestions and information on subjects you think the club would have an interest in. During the meeting I will have a pad of paper on the library table for your ideas. That's all for now and happy reading.

WEBSITE NEWS: Our site is www.newwesthortssociety.org. Good looking! We now post our newsletters but there is a lag time of at least until the weekend to allow items to be deleted. If you were mentioned in the newsletter but prefer not to be on the website, give Lori (604-644-8266) a call ASAP. For privacy purposes and as an anti-spam measure we always delete emails addresses that are in the newsletter. If you want an deleted address, contact Lori or Audrey via the club executive page.

PLANT A ROW, GROW A ROW: by Margaret Stewart.

It's PRODUCE time again! Plant a Row Grow a Row is collecting fresh produce for the Food Bank on Sundays, 9:30-10:30am at St. Aidan's Church, 1320 Seventh Ave (at 14th St), New Westminster.

We also collect fruit tree harvests, and given enough lead time can sometimes help to harvest the fruit. If you or a neighbour has extra fruit on your trees, please contact Joan Miller at 604-540-1929 to discuss donations and assistance.

We are looking forward to a great year, thanks to all our growers and volunteers. If you'd like more information on donating or volunteering with Plant a Row, Grow a Row, please let Joan know or call 604-526-4914, the program message line at the church. Happy Gardening!

IN YOUR VEGE PATCH: by the Urban Gardener also known as Roy Pegler. Roy (604-520-6467) welcomes your vegetable gardening questions.

Hopefully summer is coming, and when it does, it is time to watch that all crops are watered thoroughly. Plan to give the crops a good deep watering once a week to keep the roots going down three or four inches. It is not necessary to water every day. If you do, the roots will grow along the top of the soil and get sunburnt. Don't forget: do not water tomatoes and potatoes on the leaves. Blight is the last disease we want from these two crops. A good idea is to cover tomato plants with a plastic frame to keep rain off the leaves.

Vegetables in Containers: I realize that I have written on this subject previously but in view of the fact that we have many new members who are city dwellers with small lots, the information may be of interest.

Let us discuss about crops from pots or tubs. The container should be a minimum of six inches deep with several drainage holes. Fill with good potting soil to about three quarters full. Which vegetables to grow are a matter of choice. Lettuce has to be the most popular. Don't be afraid to mix and match your plantings. Tomatoes, marigolds, lettuce, basil and parsley grow in harmony in a large square pot. Picking the veges when young and often ensures a constant supply by encouraging them to produce even more succulent young shoots. Your favorite vege can be potted to provide a welcome change. Try sweet corn (minimum of three plants to ensure cross pollination), Swiss chard, carrots or cabbage. Actually you can grow any vegetable in a container. Let's talk about potatoes. You don't need an allotment plot to enjoy delicious new potatoes. You can grow them on your patio. There is nothing complicated about growing potatoes in pots. To get started, use a deep pot with good drainage holes and fill it to a quarter full with good potting soil and put about 3 or 4 tubers evenly on top of the soil. Lightly cover the tubers with soil and as they start to sprout, mound them up with more soil until the soil level is near the top of the pot. The first love of potatoes is water, so make sure they have a copious supply throughout the summer. Also, they will need dressing of 6-8-6 fertilizer. When the tops start to die back, the crop is ready to harvest. Lift out and clean off the soil and enjoy your lovely fresh potatoes.

The advantages of container gardening is you can move your pots and tubs around into the shade or full sun, maximizing the use of your space.

GardenWorks Appreciation Day: Thursday, July 21st

THIS 'N' THAT:

■With all the interesting things happening in our club lately, we have been tardy in welcoming several new members who have joined over the last few months. A welcome (very belated in some cases) to **Philip Blackburn, Rebecca Bradshaw, Brenda Forsythe, Heather Hyde, Dorothy Jones, Elena Kein, Ann Paisley, Melody Patton, Evelyn Raine and Faith Yanchuk**. You won't be sorry you joined.

■**Dawn Dutrizac-Larose and Paul** (of course) want to extend a sincere thanks to those who "worked like troopers" to help dig up plants at their soon-to-be-past residence. **Patti & Ken Kemp, Joy Makepeace-Smith, Lea McDonald and Amanda Maplethorp** (and friend) deserve pats on their backs for their efforts. Thanks to the abnormally cool weather, the plants seem to be going under little stress in the pots. The next job is moving the plants to the new location. *The big plant move is slated for July 16th. Help from members with trucks would be most appreciated. See Dawn tonight or call 604-942-5908 if you can help.* The final moving to their new house at 56 Eddie Drive (New Westminster, V3L 5K3) takes place on 20-21st of this month. They are getting a new phone number as well: 604-522-5907. Glad to have you two in our neighbourhood.

■As you may know, the club's **Lost & Found** is with Audrey. In addition to the jacket found at the plant sale, there is now a plate left behind at the May meeting. Did you bring in treats that month? She has the items at the meeting tonight.

■There was some confusion last month when I was mentioned the **Photo Contest Rules** and the **Container Contest Rules**. *They are on the back of the roster.* We think the rules are pretty explicit but if you have a question, ask! During the judging of the containers last year, it was obvious that those containers taken with a good camera had a definite edge. The pictures just showed the details of the container better. If you don't have a good camera, ask Audrey to come over and take some pictures for you. No entering those pictures in the photo contest though!!!

■We are giving you advance notice of our **Miller Garden Tour** in Seattle scheduled for Thursday Oct 20, 10am tour start. The excessive amount of lead time is because this tour should be a real treat and it being on a weekday and you might need the time to schedule the day off work. Miller Garden is a renowned woodland garden just packed full of unusual species. Check out www.millergarden.org to see what an understatement this is. In the fall, it is reputed to be downright gorgeous! We will be car-pooling. The drive from Vancouver is about 3 1/2 hours. We reserved the early tour (as opposed to 2pm) with the thought that we might just drop in at some other interesting spot on the return trip. Check your schedule now. The maximum number for the tour is 15. No sign-up sheet as yet, but if you are interested in the tour, tell Audrey verbally.

■We're still looking for ideas of how to add some extra buzz to our bee display at **Queensborough Fair**. Got ideas? Please speak to any executive member. The fair is Sun, Sept 25th. Talk to Audrey if you would like to get involved in our display and/or the fair's overall decoration.

EMAIL NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS:

The monthly reminder that if you want to receive Lesley's most enjoyable and informative emails or have a change in your email address, contact her at edited

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND: The club continually receives email announcements of upcoming events of interest to gardeners.

Erikson's Daylily Gardens Open House: Sat & Sun July 16-17, 10-4. At 24642 - 51st Ave, Langley. Many local nurseries on hand; Chinese Auction by the Aldergrove Daylily Society; musical entertainment by the award winning D.W. Poppy High School Chamber Ensemble. Admission by donation to the music department. For more info contact Pam Erikson at 604-856-5758 or check details under Upcoming Events on www.plantlovers.com.

Orchid & Companion Plant Sale: Sat, Aug 6, 9-4, VanDusen Garden Floral Hall. Put on by the Vancouver Orchid Society. Orchid display and experts present to answer your questions related to the culture of orchids for both hardy out-door and tropical in-door types. Several commercial vendors plus members of VOS will be selling plants. Free event, refreshments. For more info contact Maureen Renton at 604-522-3895 or Bill Bischoff at 604-589-6134.

PLANT SALE UPDATE:

Committee: The search for members willing to do that little bit extra to make the sale run smoothly is going well. Last month we have several confirmed (and a few potential) committee members. Confirmed are:

Plant Collection: Monica Mowat

Plant Preparation: Audrey Barnes

Plant Tags & Signage: Sharon Seki

Publicity & Communication: Lori Jenvey

Annuals: Patti Kemp.

We are still looking for: Chairperson (probably Audrey unless...), Raffle, Set-Up, Sale-Day, Take-Down, Vegetables, Perennials. The clipboard will be circulated again tonight. If you would like to head one of these committees please indicate that. If you sign up as interested to help, your name will be forwarded to the appropriate person when work is pending.

Plant material: Some delectible items have been dropped off and are now in Audrey's garden. Others are awaiting planting. Her available empty garden space is fast diminishing—space will be a premium until the fall when the cannas and squash are removed. If you find you have some seedlings that are just too good to pull, it would be great if you could transplant them into some corner of your yard.

Keep your mind trained on those perennials that are just getting too big and will need dividing next year. There is a clipboard tonight for you to list them. Give Audrey a call to get her over to take a photo of the plants in their glory.

Pots: Keep those pots coming. The carport is the one next to the greenhouse. A house up the lane got an unexpected delivery a while ago.