

# THE NEW WESTMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

www.newwesthortsociety.org

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

June 2005

## **CLUB CALENDAR:**

**JUNE MEETING:** Tonight, Tues, June 14th, 7:45. HENK SUYS from Lee Valley Tools (Vancouver). Originally Henk's topic was "Sharpening Garden Tools". To our benefit, he has expanded his presentation to 'GARDEN TOOL MAINTENANCE'. After his talk and demonstration, he is setting his skills to good use to sharpen tools which you may have brought in. If you have brought a tool to the meeting to be sharpened, please bring it to the front desk before the meeting or during tea. We will put your name on it (masking tape and felt pen) and he will sharpen as many as possible. He is fast!

**MINI PLANT SALE** is back by popular demand. A few plants left over from the sale (some which were just too small by sale time to sell), plants grown especially for the sale (warm weather plants such as squash), plants donated by members—Wow! All sorts of stuff! We are attempting to organize by plant type: vegetable, annual, perennial; but it is pretty casual. If you are bringing plants in, please try to place them in the appropriate area. Each pot should be labeled and priced. The tables are set up by the windows. Select your plants, get tallied, pay at cashier, enjoy your plants. Sale proceeds go to the club's coffers. There may also be a table of potted dahlia plants from the Vancouver Dahlia Society. These are being sold as a fund raiser for the B.C. Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund. \$3 per plant. There is a separate cashier for this table.

**ROSTER:** Please pick up your copy of the revised club roster. Check your own name for data accuracy and please report any discrepancies to our treasurer, Mary. She has also made up new replacement nametags for all those which seemed to be missing. We distribute updated rosters twice yearly, in January and mid-summer, to the general membership. Note that the photo contest and container contest rules are on the last page.

**JULY MEETING:** Tues, July 12th, 7:45. PAT MULDOWNEY of Jones Nursery on "FRUIT TREES"

**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.

**SEPTEMBER MEETING:** Bulbs

**OCTOBER MEETING:** Orchids

**NOVEMBER MEETING:** Silent Auction & AGM

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER:** by Audrey

Last month hidden in the euphoria of the great success of our plant sale was the fact that our plant sale as we do it now is not sustainable. It must be reorganized. There is too much dependence on just a few people. It is so easy to rely on the folks who have always done it but people's interests and lifestyles (not to mention health) change. New people mean new ideas and an evolution, not stagnation, of the sale. All this and more came out during our plant storm brainstorming session. The basic recommendations are the sale must be run by committee and there must be year-round interest maintained in the sale to make the spring sale preparation run smoothly. *We are asking for several people to take on a bit more responsibility.*

**PROPOSED SALE COMMITTEE:** These represent intermeshing responsibilities. It must be a team effort

**Chairperson:** Should be an executive member. Overall in charge. Oversees all other committees—keeps everyone on track.

**Plant Collection:** Collects plants from members gardens

**Plant Preparation:** Oversees potting, daily recording and making of master tags; oversees final grooming and pricing. In charge of plants until they leave the yard.

**Plant Tags and Signage:** Distributes master tags and collects and organizes finished tags, creates and posts plant signs

**Publicity & communication:** Coordinates "getting the word out"—liaison with press, distribution of posters, electronic postings

**Raffle:** Solicitation of prizes, collection of prizes, organization of "raffle area"

**Set-up:** Coordinates the evening set-up at mall

**Sale-day:** The boss of the day

**Take-down:** Coordinates the tear-down.

**Vegetables:** Coordinates of the vegetable plant stock (not necessarily the grower); know what is coming from the yard; determine the order in which plants are to be shipped out; supplies feedback as to desirable plants for next year; in charge of the vegetable section on sale day.

**Perennials:** As with vegetables

**Annuals:** As with vegetables

*Starting with this meeting we will be passing around clipboards. Tonight we will be asking if you would be willing to take on one of the committees. Dual coordinators for each committee would be great. And, on another clipboard, we are seeking your advice regarding desired plants that were missing at this year's sale so we can make up a want list. Next month we will be asking you to list any plants in your garden which are potentially dividable for the sale.*

Starting next month we will start our new regular column in the newsletter: PLANT SALE UPDATE. In it we will keep you abreast of current happenings and how you can help. Many hands makes work light. I personally thank each of you now for the help you will be giving.

## **CLUB OUTINGS:**

**Pond mini-tour/workshop:** The morning of Sat, June 25th, starting at 8:30, ending about noon. This is an instructional tour for members considering installing a pond in their gardens. 5 members have graciously agreed to let us view their ponds and discuss their personal experiences with the installation and maintenance of the ponds. Topics to be dealt with are pond location, construction technique and challenges encountered, plant selection, maintenance, costs and anything they would have done differently if they were to install the pond again. The attendees will move as a group. Since some of the ponds are more complex than others, the amount of time spent at each will vary. There will be a rough but flexible timetable. When we are due to leave one garden we will phone ahead to alert the owner of the next pond. The tour will end at Northwest Landscape and Stone Supply on Bryne Road, suppliers of pond construction materials. It is strongly advised that you do a little research on the internet, in books and magazines before the tour. It will be much more valuable to you if you do. A good place to start is the website: [www.skippysstuff.com](http://www.skippysstuff.com). The tour sign-up sheet is at the head table. The deadline for signing-up is 5pm Tuesday June 21. Phone Audrey (604-526-8284) if you want to sign-up after tonight. The tour map will be distributed only to those who sign up. *Please note: this is not a garden tour—the focus will be on receiving instruction for creating a pond. Please do not sign up if you just want to look at gardens. Your chance to tour gardens will come in July.*

**Annual Garden Tour & Pot-luck Picnic:** We have reserved sun, with just a bit of cloud cover, for the tour & picnic day, Sat, July 23rd. (If our reservation somehow goes astray, the tour & picnic is still on, rain or shine.) This is one of big social events of the year. We invite members and spouses to join a tour of members' gardens and then partake the pot-luck picnic in the garden of Ellen & Nes Berg.

For the sake of the gardens, we ask that small children are not taken on the tour. They are invited to the picnic but be aware that Ellen says their garden is not absolutely kid proof and they have a large dog. The picnic traditionally starts at 4:30. As of yet we do not know the number and locations of the gardens so we cannot pinpoint the tour start time—it is usually about 1:30. We visit the gardens in a set sequence and time schedule to allow those members who are showing their gardens to join in viewing the others. We would like 5 or 6 gardens to visit. At this point we have 2. Have you just finished a major project? In the middle of it? Thinking of it? Don't worry that your garden is not 'perfect'. Anyone who thinks his/her garden is perfect, is not a gardener! We are looking for gardens near New Westminster to eliminate excessive driving during the day. Want to offer your garden? Talk to Audrey (604-526-8284) or any of the executive. The sign-up sheets for the pot-luck picnic are on the head table tonight and next month. At other times, the sheet will be in Ellen's possession. Phone her (604-525-7827) if you want to add or delete or change your picnic offering. Although in recent years we have had 50-60 people at the picnic, it is not expected of you to feed everyone. Plan your offering to be about 6-10 servings in size. There is no sheet for the tour.

## **CLUB OUTINGS CONT'D:**

**Mountainview Conservation and Breeding Centre:** Sat, July 9th, 10am to noon (roughly). This 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. 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). 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. We have not worked out the timing and such. Sign-up at the table if you are interested and you will be contacted with more details such driving directions and time to allow from New West. Deadline for signing-up (Audrey, 604-526-8284, will have the sheet) is Tues, July 5th, 5pm. [www.mtnviewfarms.com](http://www.mtnviewfarms.com).

**Miller Gardens, Seattle:** Thursday Oct 20, 10am tour start. Miller Garden is a renowned woodland garden just packed full of unusual species. 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. Miller Gardens is the administration site for the "Great Plant Pick" program.

## **PARLOUR SHOW NEWS: by Ellen Berg**

In future only for Des will we agree to put the showbench in the kitchen (Wasn't he great I'm now left chuckling every time I get an idea or 'vision' on where 'that' rock should go or finding a perfect place for an arbour and only having to say 'What do you think, Nes?!!!' I believe that was #7 on Des' list.) Back to the showbench. It really was too tight a squeeze. The only reason we managed was there being only 5 exhibitors and a lone Solomon Seal exhibit. Altogether a total of 44 entries were displayed on counter tops, stove tops and shelving cubicles. Once again Colleen Graham earned the highest number of points (68 1/2) for her 16 exhibits but it was Julia Goulden who brought in the first 'Perfect 5' of the year. You couldn't miss her lovely yellow peony. I heard many admirers commenting even before the judging that 'that's gotta be a 5'. For next month, Roses take up 11 of the categories but as I type this report with 2 weeks until showbench, my roses are now in their prime. I can however take their picture which I hope all your members are doing. This is the prime time to take those pictures of those perfect moments for the photo contest—and to take pictures of plants you are planning to donate to the plant sale next year. Good Luck exhibitors on tonight's showbench.

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:** a review of last month's presentation: You missed our definitely most entertaining presentation of the year: DES KENNEDY on "THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF GARDENING". What an accurate portrayal of human nature!

### **EUROPEAN CHAFER UPDATE:**

Oops, it seems that last month I did a journalistic goof in that I consulted only one person, Alan Reid, when I wrote the article on chafers. When Claude Le Doux read it, he pointed out several inaccuracies. Because of these inaccuracies you will no longer find the May chafer article on our website. Not all that was stated last month was false but much needs to be clarified and updated.

The chafer-attacking nematode, *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*, will be available at GardenWorks and although expensive, the anticipated cost is much less than quoted last month. Crucial to their effectiveness is the application date and amount of sunshine (heat). The application must not be done in full sun—the nematodes will die. Cloudy conditions or late afternoon or evenings are ideal. The best date to apply nematodes is just after the chafer egg has hatched into its first larval stage—during the 2nd and 3rd week in July. It is also important to have your lawn very well watered before and after applications as nematodes need a film of water within the soil to live. It must not be watered to the point of run-off. That would just wash the nematodes away. Periodically turning the sprinkler off for 10 or so minutes and then on again works well. Arrange with city engineering for a water permit if applying on a non-sprinkling day.

Merit kills young chafer larvae not upon contact but upon ingestion. It is important that it is applied during the month of June so that there is time for it to be absorbed by the grass (i.e. It is a systemic insecticide) and thus in the roots readily available for the young larvae to eat. Obviously, you need lawn for it to work. It will not work if applied to bare soil. As with the nematodes, it is important for the lawn to be well watered before and after application as Merit needs water to get to the plant roots so that it can be absorbed by the plant. Again avoid watering to the state of run-off or your insecticide will be washed away.

Normally flying and mating occurs for an hour starting at about 9:15pm. By 10:15, the beetles have dug back into the soil until the next evening. Upon mating, the male dies and the female drops to the ground, digs in and lays her eggs. Doubt has been cast on the idea that you can lay a tarp down in the evening and just gather the beetles up in the morning. They are pretty frisky. It is suspected that they would just crawl to the tarp's edge and into the soil there. The necessity of flight to mate has not been verified—possibly they will just "do their thing" under the tarp. The effectiveness of mowing to "vacuum" them up is also doubtful. The beetles dig into the soil quite quickly.

This year the chafers started flying in the last week of May, as opposed to the normal first week of June. Many people have observed that flying seems to be tapering more quickly but it is suspected this lack of flight may be due to our cooler than normal weather.

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

June is still time to plant and sow most vegetables, like beans, tomatoes, lettuce, carrots, cucumbers and late potatoes. There is still time to sow your parsnip and leek seeds. Watch out for slugs and other chewing insects. Side dressing most of your veggies with 4-10-10 will be very beneficial. Newcomers to gardening, who have been told that lettuce is one of the most difficult crops to grow, should first try just a few plants and find out for themselves that with a little care this is far from true. The essentials are ample water and manure. Choose those varieties suitable for the season in which they are to be grown. Some are all rounders, but it is possible to select a lettuce that has been bred specifically for either cool or warm conditions. Select a well-drained, sunny position and a area of a size that can be looked after. It should be dug to the full depth of your spade or fork, providing that does not bring up the subsoil, and if possible prepared some six weeks before planting. At this stage, it can be given a dusting of lime, up to one pound per square yard. Before sowing or transplanting, give the soil another digging and allow it to settle a week. It is with this digging, that a four inch layer of rotted manure or compost is worked in. Most gardeners find that direct sowing of the seed to where plants are to grow saves time and trouble. Plants that are thinned out can be transplanted elsewhere and are usually ready a little later than those that have been left to grow in the bed. Once established, lettuce plants should be given a thorough soaking in dry weather at least once a week. Sodium nitrate plus potassium sulphate is an ideal stimulant and can be given in liquid form by dissolving one teaspoon of each in a gallon of water. It is essential with lettuce that they receive no check in their growth, otherwise they tend to be tough and bitter and prematurely run to seed. Good growing & best of luck with your lettuce. Enjoy..

**GardenWorks Appreciation Day:** Thursday, June 16th.

### **NEWSLETTER NOW ON WEBSITE:**

We are now posting our newsletter on the club website, [www.newwesthortsociety.org](http://www.newwesthortsociety.org). However to accommodate members who were mentioned in the newsletter but would prefer not to be on the website, Lori holds off on the posting until the Friday following the meeting. Please contact Lori (604-644-8266) with any desired deletions. A similar situation may arise with photos of our outings. If you prefer your image not to be on the site, please tell her.

### **SEED EXCHANGE:**

We have a dirth of seeds in the exchange. It's that time of the year. Seeds have been taken (and hopefully planted) but none have been donated. Don't get too gung-ho with your deadheading. Let a few flowers go to seed for collection and donation to the exchange. Claude leDoux recently donated seeds from a gorgeously dark oriental hellebore. Pick some up tonight and sow them at once. Hellebore seeds are viable for a very short time.

## **THIS 'N' THAT:**

■Liz Munt (604-291-5885) is trying to determine the best tree for her back yard. She wants to screen the neighbour's house across her back fence from view. The tree will be in full sun. Desirable features: 15-20' high with a broad, dense canopy; single trunk preferred (versus multi-trunk trees like Maple); purple colour preferred. Any suggestions? If you too are looking for a tree, we have posted two tree lists on the bulletin board—one suggests trees for different growing conditions, the other lists trees according to size.

■Looking for a large split leaf philodendron? Check with Charlotte Rozman (604-524-3160) to see if hers is still looking for a new home. It's a beauty! It would probably need a truck and 2 people to move it.

■What a surprize! We thought we had sold the last of those great shovels! But when Audrey vacuumed under her buffet she clunked into one. Due to its classification as "plant sale central", this area had not been touched for about 2-3 months. The "before" and "after" was like a television advertisement. The shovel is here tonight in the plant sale area with its regular \$25 price tag.

■Thanks to being alerted by some of our members who live in Coquitlam regarding their city's Spring Clean-up Days, Audrey spent a bit of time skulking the streets checking the piles of garbage for Venitian blinds. The result: our blind reserves are no longer at the critically low level of a month ago. This does not mean that we don't want yours. If you have 1" pale coloured vinyl blinds, please drop them into the carport of 117 Seventh. Our collection of plant pots is also ongoing. Just drop them off. Periodically, Audrey ventures into the area and sorts them for next years sale.

■Speaking of pots, we have probably an excess of quite large ones (12" diameter, 9" deep) and some slightly smaller. Can you use some? Arrange with Audrey for pick-up.

■Set aside the evening of Monday, July 18th aside for a rare treat. At 7:30, Piet Oudolf, world famous Dutch garden designer and plantsman will be presenting at UBC in the IRC Woodward Biomedical building auditorium, Health Sciences Mall. Purchase your ticket (\$15 admission) in advance at Free Spirit Nursery, the Shop at UBC Botanical Gardens or Southlands Nursery or send SAS plus the \$15 to Free Spirit Nursery. It will be the chance of a lifetime! Tickets are going fast! *Just want one ticket? Evelyn Raine purchased several and now finds she has one extra. \$15, of course. See her at the meeting tonight. Don't know who she is? Hint, she comes to the meetings with Diana Flostrand. Name tags are so handy.*

■We're still looking for ideas of how to make our Queensborough Fair display unique. The theme is "bees". Got ideas? Please speak to any executive member. The fair is Sun, Sept 25th.

■Recently, Joy Makepeace-Smith, hired a crew to trim her huge cedar hedge—she was most pleased with the price and results. Club policy prohibits mention of name and price in the newsletter. Check the bulletin board—or speak with Joy.

**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 for security)

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

**Evergreen : finale celebration of "Urban Oasis New Westminster":** June 11 (tomorrow) 10am-1pm in Lower Hume Park. This is the finale of the habitat enhancement and local stewardship project for community members in McBride-Sapperton. They have enticed the Hyack Football Team to take part. Emphasis will be on the removal of the invasive ivy and planting native vegetation—and having a good time. Tools and refreshments provided. Dress for the weather—long sleeve shirts a must. For more info contact Denise Philippe at 604-689-0766 ext 27.

**Select Roses Annual Open House Art Show and Sale:** Sat & Sun, July 2-3, 10-4pm. At 22771 - 38th Ave, Langley. Local arts and other plant specialty nurseries (Erikson Daylilies and Phoenix Perennials). Roses should be in full bloom. For more info, phone 604-530-5786. [www.selectroses.ca](http://www.selectroses.ca)

### **Strathcona and Cottonwood Community Gardens**

**Open House:** Sun July 10th, 10-3 at the gardens. The gardens are located close together in East Van close to the corner of Hawkes and Prior Ave. Signage will give directions. A large plant sale along with tours and various workshops. Fun time for both young and old. Check bulletin board for poster.

**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](http://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.

## **MEMBER DISCOUNTS:**

■**Frost Nursery**, growers and distributors of unique shrubs and ornamental trees (Visit them if you are looking for something unusual.), gives 10% upon presentation of your card. 5863 Beatty Rd, Abbotsford. Open Sat & Sun 10-4pm, Mon-Fri by appointment. 604-607-7171; [fnursery@quik.com](mailto:fnursery@quik.com). *Pick up one of their \$5 off coupons on the foyer table—good for purchases in June & July '05. See bulletin board.*

■**Port Kells Nurseries**, good plants, great prices, very helpful people. Gives 20% off over \$100 in purchases. This is not restricted to garden club members. 18730 - 88th Ave, Surrey, 604-882-1344