

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;

November, 2005

CLUB MEETING CALENDAR:

NOVEMBER MEETING: Tonight: Tues, Nov 8th, 7:45pm, OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, the SILENT AUCTION and Container Contest Judging. *As every year with the silent auction, this is a members only meeting—no guests allowed.*

DECEMBER MEETING: Tues, Dec 13th. OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY & AWARDS NIGHT: Delicious buffet dinner (catered by A & F Catering, 604-594-3384), door prize, Christmas Trivia contest, our fantastic Christmas Raffle and of course, the annual salute to those who excelled in our year-long Parlour Show, the Photo Contest and the Container Contest. As it says on your ticket, the buffet starts at 6:30 and closes at 7:30. It is advisable, if you plan to sit with a specific group, to arrive early. Enjoy the extra time to buy your raffle tickets, pre-select your raffle prize(s), work on the Trivia quiz or just socialize with your NWHS friends. Be aware that there will be some “reserved for _____” seats. These will be for members who have functions for the event (and their guests) and for those couples who notify us that that they will be arriving at the last minute due to employment conditions. Notify us, too, if you are vegetarian. The buffet offers a great choice of delicious food but we will be ordering a vegetarian dish as well—we want to make sure you get some.

Wow! We must be doing something right! The original allotment of dinner tickets (112) was sold out by last Friday. Since a few core club people had yet to purchase, we are squeezing in one more table, raising the total tickets available to 120. Of that, only 3 tickets are still up for grabs. Once all are sold, we (Mary tonight, Audrey after tonight) will be compiling a “Want Ticket” waiting list. If you discover you have a conflict and will not be attending the party, please contact Audrey (604-526-8284 before 8pm), who will have custody of tickets & such after tonight’s meeting. Up to Dec 1st (5pm), you are guaranteed a refund. On Dec 2nd, we will be telling A & F Caterers the number to expect. If, after Dec 1st, you discover you cannot attend, still tell Audrey. If there are people still wanting tickets, we can perform a transaction. Our most successful plant sale in May is the reason we are able to offer such generously subsidized dinner tickets. It is a way of thanking you for your efforts. Can you attend the evening without purchasing a dinner ticket? Regrettably the answer is “no” because of the logistics of the evening. The agenda is meshed together in a format that we hope will eliminate lags in action and the dinner is an integral part of the whole event.

The dress code for the evening is nice casual (Audrey will leave her sweat pants at home). If you want to dress spiffy, that would be nice. Please, no fragrance. Thanks.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER: by Audrey

What can I say, except to say I want you to say what you think. Huh? Tell us your ideas for Parlour Show improvements or replacement. If you have something you think the club should do in 2006 (trip, workshop, speaker) tell us so we put it to the general membership in Jan. Thanks.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

VOTE # 1: Speaker Budget: *THE MOTION: NWHS allocates \$2000 for the 2006 speaker budget to be used at the discretion of the Speaker Co-ordinator to pay for the meeting speakers.* As in past years, we vote in advance on the next years speaker budget. The lump sum is the total available to the speaker organizer to pay as honorariums to the speakers. This facilitates snaring speakers when they come available instead of coming back to the club to vote on individual honorariums which could exceed \$250. Such a time lapse can mean a “most desirable” speaker slips through our fingers.

VOTE # 2: Change in regarding number of members-at-large on executive: *THE MOTION: Change bylaw 19 of the constitution from “The executive of the society shall be the present, vice president, secretary, treasurer, parlour show secretary plus three (3) members at large” to read “The executive of... plus up to five (5) members at large”.* The phase “three (3) members at large” is changed to “up to five (5) members at large”. This is to accommodate the number of keen members who want to be on executive. Many of this year’s executive would like to remain but feel that the group needs an infusion of new blood with new ideas.

THE ELECTION OF THE 2006 NWHS EXECUTIVE:

Assuming that the motion to change the number of members at large is passed and that there is no further nominations from the floor, we will acclaim the following

President: Audrey Barnes (2 years)

Vice president: Carole Forsythe (2 years)

Secretary: Sharon Seki

Treasurer: Mary Barnard

Parlour Show Secretary: Lori Graham

Member at Large

Lori Jenvey

Monica Mowat

Ann Paisley

Roy Pegler

Lesley Wood

It is a well balanced group: 5 from this year’s executive plus 5 fresh faces. Joan, Ellen and Buff vow to stay in the midst of club happenings—just want to skip the meetings. We’re going to keep them to their word.

THE SILENT AUCTION:

THE AUCTION AGENDA & PROCEDURE:

Hopefully, the items you brought in made it to their correct table with relative ease. Tell us if you thought that having the large floor plan and Julia as triage person at the entrance was helpful. Do you have an idea as to how we can make the evening run smoother? Was having official helpers at each area helpful?

7:30 Auction begins: If haven't already got your bidder number, get one from Roy. He will assign you a number and write it on a post-it. This is your personal reminder so you don't write down someone else's number when you bid (it has happened!). Actually as soon as an item has a bidding slip, you can bid on it. It is not the first bid, but the last, that counts. By 7:30 all items should be in place.

7:45 to 8:10: Business and AGM: No auction activity during this time period.

8:10 to 8:55: Bid as you please. The official time piece is Audrey's watch. She will give a 5 minute warning. If after about 20-30 minutes, there is no action on an item, the minimum bid may be reduced. *If you are donating an item and you have a firm minimum bid, tell Audrey so we make sure that it is not lowered.*

8:55: Bidding ceases. At the "Bidding Stop" announcement all bidders must exit the auction area. You will be scrutinized—no last minute cheating! Officials will quickly go through each table, highlighting winner's number and bid amount on each slip. No one else is to be in the auction area until it is announced that you can go in to collect your "winnings".

Collection of your winnings: Double check that you actually won the item. Boxes for collecting your loot are under the tables.

Paying for items: Before you go to the cashier, you must get your bids tallied i.e. go to someone with a small clipboard. Then proceed to the cashier. The cashier is to keep all the bidding slips.

Items not bid on: Often at the end, there has been no bids on an item. You can purchase it for the final minimum bid. All items left over, will be transported back to Audrey's who will take them to the Royal Columbian Auxiliary's Thrift Shop, "New to You", on Columbia St.

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT THE MEETING:

Refreshments: Instead of the normal lining up for refreshments at a specific time, treats and drinks will be set-up in the kitchen for you to visit at any time during the auction.

Treasurer's Table: The treasurer's table will not be open for the entire evening. It will be open for "non-auction" transactions (Christmas dinner tickets or wait list, Gift Certificates) before business and for 10 minutes after business. Definitely not open during business! Let Mary join in the fun.

Container Contest: Entries are posted on the foyer wall, ballot box on the foyer table, ballots will be distributed during the business section of the meeting.

THE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:

If you have been to our Christmas Party in the past, you are well aware that the raffle is spectacular. A huge array of items. Most have been created by "within the club" elves and most of that (but not all) have been created in Audrey's basement during the three weeks prior to the Party. Most items are Christmas themed. Does it sound like there are exceptions to every rule? You bet! If you have a nice prize to offer, bring it in—but make sure you alert Audrey so that we reserve some space on the display table for your prize.

Every year we select a local charity to receive the proceeds of the raffle. This year the executive chose **The Salvation Army**. I think everyone is aware of the good that organization does in the community. A good choice!

CREATING THE RAFFLE PRIZES:

The crafting sessions are held in Audrey's basement (117 Seventh Ave, enter around back at basement door), starting on Mon Nov 21st. This allows Steve & Audrey to enjoy moving about in the basement for a few days (do some laundry, get into the freezer) before all the craft supplies are set out. Craft sessions will run daily (morning, afternoon, evening) up to and including the Sunday before the party. *"Daily" meaning: IF you sign up on the calendar indicating your interest in coming at a certain hour, on a certain day, then there will be a session.* It does not mean that crafting will be occurring for 3 solid weeks. Audrey needs time to have a semi-normal life. The sign-up calendar is available tonight. Please sign-up giving your full name and phone number and what hours—please no before 9am or after 9pm times. Audrey will phone you about dinner time the night before to confirm your attendance as on the calendar. If you want to sign up after tonight, give her a call (604-526-8284) preferably a few days before you would like to join a session. *Please, when you attend a craft session keep in mind Audrey's sensitivity to fragrance and scents has escalated. They really do lay her flat. Thanks.*

We have a huge supply of craft materials. Whenever anything is dropped off in the carport, it is scrutinized as "possible for the crafts". Members have donated "tired" or just "retired" Christmas decorations which we re-use. Often we dismantle a whole decoration and use the parts. Feel free to drop such items off at Audrey's sheltered back door (not carport, not basement entrance) if she is not home. Add your name to your offerings. We have collected and dried all sorts of cones and seedheads—I repeat, "huge supply". We do buy some supplies. Lots of good ribbon, wire wreath forms, glue sticks (Please bring your glue gun). We have a few books of ideas. The supplies are pretty well organized in the basement (or will be by Nov 21st) but if you have not taken part in previous years, you are sure to be overwhelmed. It might take a couple of visits to the basement to get those ideas churning. The prizes we create are generally "one of a kind", inspired by what there is to work with at that point. Many would retail for big bucks! We are holding off using "fresh materials" until the Thursday before the party.

The craft sessions are perfect if you love doing crafts but don't want to keep them. It is fun to watch others and get ideas. Not a crafter? Often members drop in just to socialize. It is up to you. The main thing is to have fun.

PARLOUR SHOW NEWS: by Ellen

Just a personal note this month. Julia and I have decided to step down from our roles as Parlour Show Secretary and "sidekick". We've both enjoyed the past 5 or so years of monitoring the showbench as well as joining in the fun of exhibiting. Working with Audrey and the rest of the executive crew has been a fun and rewarding experience and I would like to wish them and all the 2006 executive members continued success in the "running of the club".

Next month, my report will have a brief preview of the awards—with names deleted of course. We'll keep the suspense until the actual awards presentation. As in the past, all the Photo Contest entries will be on display on the wall. The winners will be highlighted along with our judge's (Steve Grover) comments. At the evening's end, feel free to remove your pictures. If you forget, not to worry, we'll keep yours for you. Also next month, your votes will have been counted and the winner of the Container Contest will be announced.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN 2006 WITH THE PARLOUR SHOW??

At this point, we really do not know. One thing is definite, there will be changes! The Parlour Show meeting that was to have happened last month was cancelled due to serious schedule conflicts of many interested parties. Then we realized many have time crunches for the remainder of 2005. The OFFICIAL DATE OF THE PARLOUR SHOW EVALUATION MEETING IS TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2006. In the meanwhile we will be soliciting feedback from other general clubs in the Lower Mainland to see what they are doing (and with what success!). In February 2006, a motion will be put forward in the newsletter. You get one month to evaluate it. At the March meeting, we will vote on the motion (or a revised motion if feedback warrants it). If you would like to attend the Jan 17th meeting, tell Audrey. If you don't want to attend but have an opinion, it is best to submit it in writing to her. Email is great.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: At our **NOVEMBER MEETING**, Lynne Cassidy and Merv Lutes of the Fraser Valley Orchid Society gave a beautiful slide show highlighting orchid eye-candy. What a variety of interesting flowers. Merv's stories of his orchid adventures and mishaps were most appealing. It was entertaining to listen to them bicker about the exact name of a plant. Some excellent home growing tips as well. Thanks guys.

THE ELIZABETH C. MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN, SEATTLE, VISIT: Some had to do some juggling of schedules to get the day off but all agreed in the end that the garden tour was well worth the effort. Many thanks to Carolyn, Richie & Greg for being superb hosts and tour guides. Much of the garden is woodland and so many of the plantings are for texture. It would be great to watch the sequence of colours unfold.

IN YOUR VEGE PATCH: by the Urban Gardener, also known as Roy Pegler who would love talk "grow'n veges" with you.

November is here and we gardeners are tempted to hang up our tools and walk away from the garden once the frost has killed most of the plants, but we dedicated gardeners know there are things still to be done. First of all, if we want to plant early crops next spring, we can get a 2 to 4 week head start if we do a few things right now before the ground freezes solid. The soil in the fall is still warm, fairly dry and easily dug. In the early spring, the soil is very wet, cold and difficult to work. Take advantage of fall preparation: turning the soil over, adding humus and fertilizer and leaving fallow over the winter. A little known fact is dolomite lime takes six months to react and change the pH of the soil. The importance of a pH test cannot be over emphasized. If your soil isn't in the proper range of 6 to 7, most vegetables and flowers cannot use the nutrients and any fertilizer you added. Once pH corrections have been made, it's time to add humus to your garden. You can add the compost and leaf mold that has decomposed from the hot summer. Plan to lay at least 3 inches of some organic material, the more the better, even up to 6 inches or so. Next add some fertilizer high in phosphorus or potassium such as bonemeal, mushroom manure or steer manure. Finally turn soil over and leave fallow for winter. Dig as deep as you can. Try for 12 inches and let the frost and rain penetrate through it. It should be ready for an yearly spring crop of green peas or other early spring varieties of veges.

GardenWorks Appreciation Day: Thursday, Nov 17th

WE'RE IN THE MONEY! By Lesley

As you know, thanks to hard work and successful events like our annual plant sale, our Club enjoys a very healthy bank balance. We frequently donate funds to various causes, like the B.C. Council of Garden Club's Scholarship Trust Fund and our scholarship, inaugurated last year with New Westminster Secondary School. But our executive feels there are likely other good causes we could support, that would fit our Club mandates around horticultural education and giving back to our community. So...we are looking for a few volunteers to work on a committee that will develop some general guidelines for the types of projects that the Club could choose to support financially. The committee will also be asked to research some specific programs or events we could support, that would meet these guidelines. Guidelines and specific suggestions will be presented to the executive for their consideration and, ultimately, to the membership for approval. If you are interested, please contact Lesley Wood (Committee Chair) 604-520-1959 (no calls after 8:30 pm, please). If you are interested, but concerned about time commitments during this busy time of year, Lesley would still like to hear from you, as the committee will not begin its work until January.

THIS 'N' THAT:

■Wow! Members joining in October! That doesn't usually happen. A welcome to **Margaret Brown & Bergitta Markland**. That brings our membership to 185. Pretty impressive! More impressive still is the percentage who are actively involved in the club.

■**Seed Exchange and Free Table:** None until the February meeting. Who knows, perhaps some items tonight that don't get any bids we may just hold over. If you brought seeds to the meeting tonight, just give them to Audrey who will pass them onto Buff. Got some that you forgot at home? If you are attending a craft session, just bring them along. We're going to stock pile the seeds in hope to have a good selection available in spring when you will want to plant them.

■**Library News:** As with the free table, no library until the February meeting. However Audrey & Monica will gladly receive your returned volumes at anytime.

■**Website:** Yep, we realize you may have been having trouble getting to it. We are working on moving to a different server. We trust this will solve the problem. Sorry.

■**October B.C. Council of Garden Clubs Meeting:** The meeting certainly lived up to its billing as a good time for all. The meeting started with a centerpiece being created at each table. We learned some good techniques which will become handy in the Christmas Craft sessions. Dianne Gaines who had to cancel on us because of illness gave an excellent demonstration of planting spring bulbs in a container. We have her rebooked for next September. In the afternoon, a delightful Yukari Mitsui showed off some of her beautiful arrangements and some of the neat tricks she used when creating them. The scholarship trustees gave a rather long but very informative presentation regarding using a foundation as an investment venue. Our club ran the raffle (total take: \$546!!).

THAT 'N' THIS:

■Looking for a professional photographer? Check out **Steven Grover**, our Photo Contest Judge. He is more than "that guy who works at Fotofun". Give him a call if you need photos for a special event or presentation. Recently he was the photographer for the Royal City Builders Awards. You can check out some of his numerous images on www.agefotostock.com (search by Photographer & type in "Grover") He can be reached at 604-525-5661.

■**Membership Gift Certificates:** Once again we are offering NWHS Membership Gift Certificates for your Christmas shopping pleasure. \$10. Good for all of 2006. Buy from Mary tonight, or Audrey after tonight. If the receiver mails it back to us in early January, we will mail out the membership card with a copy of our January mailer.

■**Sun Spinners:** Hopefully by meeting time, we will have the backordered Sun-Spinners in our hands. Check with Mary. If not, as soon as Audrey gets them, she will phone you and arrange delivery to you. If you missed out on the fantastic deal last month, you can get them at *10% off regular retail prices by dropping into Solar Greenhouse and Garden Supply, at 4752 Imperial, Burnaby (near Central Blvd). The 10% discount applies when you show your NWHS membership card.*

■**Phoner/email notification of December meeting:** Because it is a meeting for which tickets are sold, there is no "to all members" reminder of this meeting. We expect you to be on your toes regarding its date. As a reminder, the date is on your dinner ticket.

■**Email notification of meetings:** Just the reminder that if you want to get on this list or if you change your address, send Lesley an email:

WHAT ONE FINDS WHEN SEACHING FOR AUCTION ITEMS: A 1992 Mad Magazine with an "article" on gardening! Enjoy these excerpts from "A Mad Look at Gardening"

Sorry, this doesn't come up in the electronic version of the newsletter.

The grade 2 version of "cut and paste" was used.