

THE NEW WESTMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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CLUB MEETING CALENDAR:

OCTOBER MEETING: Tonight, Tues, Oct 11, LYNNE CASSIDY & MERV LUTES of the Fraser Valley Orchid Society, on "ORCHIDS FOR YOUR HOME".

Photo Contest and Container Contest: All entries due tonight. Entries are accepted at the fireplace end of the room. To enter the Photo Contest, Ellen will assign you an exhibitor number (which you write on the back of each of your entries). You will then put your entries into the envelopes for each of the categories. To enter the Container Contest, see Lori who has a stack of envelopes. Your name goes on the envelope and your photos with the list of plants goes into the envelope. Each of your containers gets a separate envelope.

PARLOUR SHOW MEETING: Mon, Oct 17th, 7:00pm at Audrey's. To evaluate the present parlour show and to discuss the feasibility of different replacement formats. Please sign-up at the head table (or phone Audrey after tonight) if you would like to attend. We are holding off on voting on this issue until March 2006. Many thanks to those who have come forward with feedback—it's good hear you are passionate about the club.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Tues, Nov 8th, 7:45pm, OUR SILENT AUCTION, AGM and Container Contest Judging. **This is a members only meeting—no guests allowed.**

There are articles on the Silent Auction and AGM elsewhere in the newsletter. Because the Silent Auction always takes more room than we have, there will be a few relocations during the meeting. Tea & refreshments will be a casual affair, taking place throughout the meeting (no specific tea time)—in the kitchen. Container Contest Entries will probably be posted in the foyer. No free table for this night.

DECEMBER MEETING: Tues, Dec 13th. OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY & AWARDS NIGHT: Tickets for the buffet dinner (A&F Catering again!) go on sale tonight: \$10 members, \$15 first guest, \$25 additional guests. At non-meeting times, see Audrey for sales. Deadline is 5pm, Tues, Dec 1st but don't wait because we are capping the tickets sold at 112. The evening will follow the same popular format as in past years: Dinning, Awards, Outstanding Raffle (Salvation Army is the charity this year), Trivia Quiz—good times!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: by Audrey

WOW!! No room again! "Wanna be on executive??"

UPCOMING AGM: Well, this year it probably won't be the quickest on the books. That honor goes to a few years ago, when it was over quicker than a black squirrel twitches. We will have a couple of votes and then elect or acclaim our 2006 executive.

1. Speaker Budget Vote: The executive proposes that a motion be put forward that the club allocates \$2000 for the 2006 speaker budget meaning that is the total amount which the speaker chairperson can give out as speaker honorariums.

2. Change in bylaw 19 under part 5 "Officers and Executive": Currently the bylaw states "*The executive of the society shall be the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, parlour show secretary plus three (3) members at large*". It is proposed that the words "*three (3) members at large*" be changed to "*up to five (5) members at large*". This is to allow greater depth to the executive. Some current executive members would like to stay on as members at large but this is also the ideal position for "new blood" to join the group.

3. Election of the 2006 executive:

This year, the terms for all executive positions expire. The president and vice president have two year terms; all others have one year. We are open for nominations in all positions—and, we are delighted to report, several members not currently on executive have expressed interest! The current executive would love to tell you about what it's like. Audrey Barnes has resigned (!!!) herself to another term as president but needs to have someone come on board who would be willing to take over the reins in two years. .

PRESIDENT: Chairs the monthly executive & general meetings; is responsible for looking forward to future club activities to provide sufficient organizing time; is the ultimate head of all committees.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Chairs meetings when president is unable; assists president in her duties. With our club, this position does not automatically lead to that of president—but it could. Recently, this person organized the speakers.

TREASURER: Collects all monies and deposits into club account; keeps accurate records of all transactions together with supporting invoices and receipts; gives monthly financial statements at meetings; maintains roster; arranges for year end audit.

SECRETARY: Keeps minutes of all meetings; conducts general club correspondence (committee heads often do the correspondence specific for their committees); keeps meeting attendance

PARLOUR SHOW SECRETARY: Runs the parlour show. If we vote to change the nature of the parlour show in spring, this position will change—perhaps to "Competitions Secretary".

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Although there is "specific duties" attached to each of these positions, it is expected that each will chair or co-chair at least one committee.

The executive meets once a month, usually on the 4th Tuesday. The meeting site rotates through the homes of the executive members. The new executive will take over in early January 2006. Being on executive is work but it is also and exciting, rewarding experience.

CLUB OUTINGS:

MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN (Seattle) TOUR: Thurs, Oct 20th. *After Claude spoke about the gardens and this great opportunity, there was a rush to sign-up. How do you fit 22 people in the space for 15?? You email Carolyn Jones at the garden and see if it is OK to split our group. YES!!! Our group will be split for 12 people at 10AM and 10 at 2PM. There are other groups touring the garden at the same times. The people who signed up first should have the first choice of time. Hopefully all will work out. Please see Audrey tonight. Since we will be going across the Can-USA Border, please make sure you have the appropriate identification —Passport or Birth Certificate and photo ID.* It is advisable to look into purchasing medical insurance for the one day—it could be the best \$15 you ever spend. Due to the shortness of our visit to the USA, the allowable duty free is \$20Can in basic groceries (that, of course, means no alcohol or tobacco). There is no admission to the garden but a \$5US donation to the Great Plant Picks program is suggested. Audrey has maps available tonight for drivers

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS WORKSHOPS: Our super-social workshops to create the raffle prizes for our Annual Christmas Raffle (held during the celebrations on Dec 13th) start on Mon Nov 21st. For 3 weeks they will run day and evening (weekends included)—not continuously but when people want to spend some time creating. Check your calendar now and decide which morning(s), afternoon(s) or evening(s) you would like to sign-up to help create our prizes. At the Nov meeting, the sign-up calendar will be available for you to write in your desired times & dates. The crafting is done in Audrey's basement. The club has a huge supply of materials but is on the constant lookout for more. If you have any tired Christmas trimmings (or just some you would like to retire), drop them off at Audrey's sheltered back door (not basement door). It is nice when your name is attached. The prizes we make are one-of-a-kind, dependent on what materials are available. We do purchase some of our supplies so if you hear or see any "deals" on such, tell Audrey.

SUN-SPINNERS FOR SALE:

Some people call them wind spinners. How can you miss the display! Stellar Wholesale (the same folks who along with their retail outlet, Solar Greenhouse & Garden Supply, treated us earlier in the year to the excellent propagation talk and workshop combo) have offered the club a deal on these great garden decorations. The spinners are 18 gauge steel with baked on powder coat paint. Instead of the \$35 for small and \$40 for large suggested retail, we are offering them to club members for a mere \$20 (small) and \$25 (large). This is a one-time only offer. Deadline to order (with payment) is 5:00PM, Tues, Oct 18th. After tonight, orders will be done through Audrey. The inside scoop: if you want one to hang in the garden to spin with the wind, get the larger size. The small one seems to not have a large enough surface area to catch the wind (great for indoors though!).

THE SILENT AUCTION:

AH, what fun the auction is! What a great way to get rid of those things of which you are tired, that gift you really didn't want, that thing for which you just purchased a new replacement! Clean out those cupboards, the attic, the basement, the shed. Donate the items to our silent auction. Each item must have its own individual bidding slip. With that in mind, if you have many items it is strongly advised that you drop the articles off at Audrey's for "pre-processing". "Pre-processing" means they will have their bidding slip made out and sorted into type of item (for later easy grouping at the sale) and transported to the lodge (and hopefully set out onto the tables). Do not leave articles in the carport (seems to be leaking—drat!) or at the basement door. Leave them in the sheltered space at her back door. Better still, hand them to her. Because of Audrey's time limitations, she cannot accept articles for pre-processing after Tues, Nov 1st (one week before the auction). Please no minimum bids below 25¢. If you have several small items, group them together with one slip. There are bidding slips at the head table if you would like to take a few home. We also have some of our plant tags so you can label any growing offerings before you arrive.

What to expect auction night: Every possible table will be set-up awaiting your wares. There will be a map posted indicating roughly where certain types of items will go. Also, we hope to have members looking after the different areas to assist you in setting out your wares. (Do you want to volunteer as a helper?)

How do you bid? Once your items are placed, head over to the treasurer's table to get your "bidder number". When you want to bid on an item, you write this number on the left side of the bidding slip and the amount you bid for the item on the right side, on the same line. If you are the first bidder you can bid the "minimum bid" also called the "starting bid" on the slip. If someone has bid before you and you want to bid, your bid must be at least 5¢ higher than the minimum bid. Please do not make any bids which are not a multiple of 5¢—we are prepared to handle nickles but really don't want to play with a bunch of pennies at the cashiers. You can bid as soon as an item has a bidding slip—it is not the first bid that is crucial, but the final bid.

Auction ending: The auction will end at about 9pm—there will be a 5 minute warning. When "bidding stops" notice is given, all bidders must immediately vacate the table areas. A crew with felt pens (talk to Audrey if you want to help) will go through the tables highlighting the winning bidder and amount. Stay out of the area! When signaled collect your won items and their slips. Boxes will be under the tables. Once you have all your slips, do not go to the cashier. Instead go to the tallying area (probably near the kitchen) where a member with a tally board (talk to Audrey if you want to help tally) will tally your total money outlay. Then proceed to the cashier. The cashier will not be doing any tallying. Small bills are delightful—and personal cheques even more so.

This may seem rather picky but we are aiming for organized confusion for the evening. The auction is great fun. Even if you do not bid yourself, watching your fellow members circle that desired item is entertaining.

PARLOUR SHOW NEWS: by Ellen

The total of 74 exhibits looked very impressive on our last showbench of the year. From the 6 exhibitors, Colleen Graham once again out did herself and came in first in the points category, receiving 117 3/4 points for her 28 entries. She also received a perfect 5 for her 3 ripe Tomatoes. Molly Stone received a Perfect 5 for her Green Beans. Julia Goulden, however, outdid them both in the Perfect 5 contest with her "double perfect score". She got one for her Garlic and the other for her Squash.

The vases are packed away, the tallying done. It's a close one....

Tonight you need to turn in your entries for the Photo Contest. Remember DO NOT put your name on the back but get an exhibitor number from me if you haven't already got one. You must get a new number each year. Put this number on the back with the caterory you've chosen.

THOUGHTS ON THE SHOW: by Linda Turnbull

(This was Linda's response when we asked for feedback on the Parlour Show. It contains so many pertinent points, we asked her if we could put it in the newsletter.)

Although almost all Garden Clubs started with a strong emphasis on "Show Bench" as a method of learning and a certain competitiveness that members wither displayed for pride or one-up-manship, I think the average garden club members today prefer that the learning aspect be in the form of speakers and garden tours. Most people work today and have very little time to devote to their flowers to gain perfection for a "Show Bench" standard. I think most people in clubs today display a stronger interest in gardening in a broader sense, such as, new trends, fertilization methods, ponds, plant diseases and "how to" garden, than to achieving the perfect bloom, veg or fruit. For some members, they realize that their properties are increased in value if they garden, but they also know that gardening can be very costly so they join a garden club to learn the basics. There are members who join just for the social aspect and enjoy being armchair gardeners. Another section of members, other than working people, we sometimes forget are those who are living in apartments and have only a tiny patio on which to garden. They just do not have room to grow the plants that would be required to participate in a "Show Bench"

I think that the proposed change in "Show Bench" would take up too much valuable meeting time for the number of members that are really keen on "Show Bench".

A few more reasons that I think a large percentage of members do not participate in show bench are: Members rush home from work, they barely have time to eat or change before they have to head out to get to the meeting on time. Never mind finding that perfect bloom. Also there are many community courses specific to those that are really keen on the "Show Bench" learning style, such as flower arranging, etc.

Having said all this, there are still a few members who really enjoy and want a "Show Bench". Maybe a once or twice a year "Show Bench", that is not as astringent in rules, or as costly either in money or time, and with enough warning that the working or uninitiated members would give it a try and actually learn to enjoy this type of learning. Sometimes when members keep hearing the same people winning they figure they don't have a chance, so they don't even try.

PARLOUR SHOW PROPOSAL #2:

Many thanks for the many to the last proposal. Although it had its good points, it had its faults—congestion during tea, peoples choice vote instead of judging vote, level of participation.... The list goes on. After more discussion at the executive meeting, it was decided to pan that proposal. . We went back to one of the basics of the show: "To show what you grow". The new proposal is to have two theme meetings during the year. June would be "flowers", September would be "vegetables". Members are invited to bring in exhibits of things they are growing in their gardens. There would be no judging. Perhaps a draw prize among exhibitors as enticement to show. The focus of the meetings could be the exhibits and talking to the growers about their plants. Or we could have question and answer session or supporting speakers on the flower & vegetable themes. Think about this. We heard through the grapevine that the Dogwood Club did something like this with good success. Don't forget the Parlour Show meeting at Audreys, Mon, Oct 17th, 7pm. Tell her if you plan to attend. Can't attend, tell her what you think of this proposal.

GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT THE CLUB'S MONEY:

When I first wrote the title to this section, it was "getting serious about spending our money" but that is just not what we want. We want to put our money to use, not just spend it. With this in mind, we are looking for members to form a committee to develop guidelines of how the club could invest its money. We need guidelines that realistically reflect the mission of the club. With these guidelines, the committee will investigate ideas for expenditure put forth. Should we give more to scholarships; should we do more for horticultural research; what programs should we support; should we work with the city to put on a speaker series? We want your ideas for using the money—and a few of you with evaluative minds to volunteer to help guide us. Please speak to Audrey or Lesley if interested in helping out.

EMAIL NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS:

If you are on our meeting notification email list, you know you can count on at least one desirable and interesting email a month. Lesley does a fantastic job in enticing us out on dreary nights. If you want to get into the email loop (or have a change in your email address), drop Lesley a line at xxxxxxxxxHer emails are so good that some members think they are receiving the newsletter.

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

October is the start of cleaning up the vege patch. Tomatoes till on the vine will not ripen at this time of year, so it would be better to take them off the vines and put them in paper bags to ripen. It is a good time of year to save seeds from your crops such as beans, marrow, gourds and squash. I personally save my best quality tomato seeds as well. Possibly a light frost will come this month but it won’t affect parsnips, leeks, squash, carrots, broccoli, spinach, Swiss chard, turnips, beets, rutabagas and Brussels sprouts. As a matter of fact it will sweeten the above crops. Winter density lettuce can handle a light frost also. It is a good time to sow the broad beans for harvesting next year.

A few years ago I wrote this following article—it’s time to refresh our thoughts on its contents.

“If you have sufficient room for a vegetable garden there are five good reasons you should consider investing the money and labour necessary to grow your own produce.

- 1) A garden can supply you with fresher vegetables than you can purchase in a supermarket and you know exactly how that produce has been handled and what chemicals, if any, have been used.
- 2) It can give you more vegetables at the peak of the ripening process, which is something no supermarket can do.
- 3) Varieties of vegetables that are of considerably higher quality than those that commercial growers are willing to plant (due to risk of crop losses) can be attempted in your own private garden.
- 4) Unique varieties of garden vegetables seldom seen at stores can be grown.
- 5) The sense of accomplishment and the exercise that results from planting, tending and harvesting produces does the mind and body good.”

A good book to secure is “Square Foot Gardening” by Mel Bartholomew. The New Westminster Public Library has a copy.

GardenWorks Appreciation Day: Oct 20th.

PLANT A ROW, GROW A ROW: by Joan

Plant a Row, Grow a Row wrapped up another successful season on Thanksgiving weekend with our traditional extreme harvesting event at West Coast Seeds. Also, in keeping with tradition, it rained the whole time we were harvesting. We returned wet and tired with a truckload of corn, chard, lettuce and spinach. This was the second time this season that Mary Ballon generously let us glean the fields at her farm. Thanks to her and our other donors, we have gathered over 20,000 pounds of vegetables and fruit for the Food Bank.

MEMBERSHIP GIFT CERTIFICATES: We have for sale (see Mary tonight and at Nov meeting, Audrey at non-meeting times), gift certificates for 2006 club memberships—\$10 each, of course.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

SEPTEMBER MEETING: What can you say.... Is Claude LeDoux supportive of our club, or what! When Diane Gaines contacted us at about 2pm saying that although she had hoped she could make it, a relapse of her strept throat had floored her, panic set in! Who do you call? Claude. What an enticing slide show of “Lotusland”! Check out the garden’s website www.lotusland.org. Claude has been associated with the club for so many years that it is easy to forget that the newer members might not know of his professional status. He is the Horticultural Manager for the City of New Westminster Parks. Thanks again, Claude.

QUEENSBOROUGH FAIR: What a beautiful day to attend a country fair—and people sure did! It was the biggest attendance in the fair’s history. We were there of course. See the wall for photos of our display, the decorative creations by our members around the fair site and images of “fun at the fair”. We have always been supportive of the fair. Next year, we have been invited to have a representative on the organizing committee. They see us as having our normal (er, extraordinary) booth, doin the displays and organizing the horticultural competition. This competition was virtually absent this year. Speaking of competition, congratulations to Erika d’Esterre for her first place with her white wine and Audrey Barnes for her second in pies (sold for \$12!) and third in jam. We are not aware of any other entries by the membership (tsk!).

THIS ‘N’ THAT:

■ Last month we had an abnormally high number of new members for a September meeting. Thanks Merrill for the great club PR. We welcome Diana Behn, Rose Grabenhorst, Debra Halbig, Rose Oke and Ann White.

■ Just in case, you want to drool further over the beautiful flowers shown tonight. Here’s the details for the upcoming **Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale**. It is on Sat, Oct 22nd (10am-4pm) and Sun, Oct 23 (10am-3pm). Admission for normal folk is \$6 but when you show your NWS membership card, it will be \$5. Location: Fort Langley Community Hall, 9167 Glover Road—big yellow building on the main road in Fort Langley—can’t miss it!

■ **Seed Exchange and Free Table:** We are collecting seeds (please put any offerings in the box on the table) but are holding off having them for distribution until the spring. Tonight will be the last free table for 2005—no room at the auction or party! Seed donations will be welcome at either meeting of course.

■ **Library News:** Due to the nature of the upcoming meetings, tonight will be the last evening this year at which books will be available for borrowing. Returning books will be no problem at the Nov meeting or Dec party (just give them to Monica or Audrey). Or give them to Audrey if attending a craft session. Tonight books can be borrowed for the Christmas break so you for browse, plan and drool over your perfect garden. All books are due at Feb meeting.