

# THE NEW WESTMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

[www.newwesthortsociety.org](http://www.newwesthortsociety.org)

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

September, 2005

## **CLUB MEETING CALENDAR:**

**SEPTEMBER MEETING:** Tues, Sept 13.

DIANNE GAINES, of Van Noort Bulb Co, will be enticing us with the glory of spring flowering bulbs. We hope you brought money to purchase some "must haves".

**OCTOBER MEETING:** Tues, Oct 11, 7:45pm. LYNNE CASSIDY & MERVE LUTES of the Fraser Valley Orchid Society, on "ORCHIDS FOR YOUR HOME". 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 22-23.

**Photo Contest and Container Contest:** All entries are due at the October meeting. The rules are on the final page of the June roster.

**NOVEMBER MEETING:** Tues, Nov 8th, Silent Auction & AGM. **Silent Auction:** This is a fun night. This is *not* one of those silent auctions with big ticket items up for grabs (but if you want to donate one—great!!). It is more like a giant garage sale with a huge array of "stuff" to bid on. Lots of stuff! The room is so crammed with items, it is hard to inspect them all. Each item needs to have a bidding slip. For this reason, it is suggested that if you have a lot of items, please drop them off at Audrey's for "pre-processing". Don't just leave the items in the carport—give her a call, 604-526-8284, and leave them at the back (not basement) door if she is not home. If you are cleaning out that back shed or closet and want to get those items just "out of here", Audrey is very good at compressive storage. What kind of items?—virtually anything but it always neat when a member gets creative and donates something like home baking or preserves (or wine!?). The auction is an excellent venue to get rid of *that* wedding gift that you didn't really want. Consider that the minimum bid starts at 25¢. If you have several small items, perhaps group them together. Great deals to be had

**AGM:** Usually our AGM is pretty quick. Hopefully it will be this year as well. We will be electing the 2006 executive. There will be some votes: Parlour Show, Speaker Budget, perhaps some minor changes in the constitution. The agenda and vote explanations will be in the October newsletter.

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

Just room for 4 words: "*Wanna be on executive????*"

## **CLUB OUTINGS:**

### **QUEENSBOROUGH URBAN FARMERS FALL FAIR:**

Sunday, Sept 25th, 10am-4pm. Queensborough Community Centre. Adults \$3, school age children \$2. This a fantastic day of good family fun! If all the flyers have are gone, check those on the bulletin board. There are loads of ways individuals can boost their participation in the fair. OUR CLUB HAS BEEN VERY INVOLVED IN THE FAIR FOR YEARS and THIS YEAR IS NO EXCEPTION! Besides our large display area (prime location!), we have been asked again to help with decorating the entrance and stage areas. This year the theme is "bees". We have been throwing around ideas for our booth—nothing concrete yet—except the suggestion that our members wear yellow and black striped leotards has definitely been tossed out! Why not come to the fair and see what we have created!

**No matter what our educational content, we need members to help out in several ways.**

1. Donate or loan display materials: harvest, autumny vegetative materials such as cornstalks, colourful tree branches or vines, produce (squash, apples,...). Do you have scarecrows? neat baskets? Small scale farm equipment? We would love to borrow it! We will return any produce back to you—or, if you wish, donate it to Plant a Row, Grow a Row at the end of the day.
2. Set-up for the fair is on Saturday, starting about noon. We will need two teams of helpers: one group to do the entrance and stage displays; one to put together the club's displays.
3. Help transport display materials from Audrey's on Saturday and back to Audrey's or to recycling at 4pm on Sunday.
4. Help at our display on Fair Day—no need to be there all day.

*The fair is loads of fun—even more when you share the experience with fellow club members. Sign up at the head table.*

### **B.C.COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS GET-TOGETHER:**

Saturday, Oct 15th, roughly 8:30 to 2:30, PNE Boardroom.

\$20. A day to sit back, enjoy the company of garden club members, listen to speakers, try your chance at one of the best raffles around, devour a hot buffet lunch. In the morning, Dianne Gaines (our speaker tonight) will be talking on Bulbs for Spring Containers and Sequential Planting of Spring Gardens. In the afternoon, Donald Yim of West Van Florists will be demonstrating floral design. He is hilarious! NWHS has volunteered to look after the raffle (and thus ensuring we are first in line for the buffet!). See Mary tonight if interested or Audrey after tonight. Deadline with payment is Tues, Oct 4, 5pm.

**MILLER BOTANICAL GARDEN (Seattle) TOUR:** Thurs, Oct 20th, 10am. No charge but a \$5US donation to the Great Plant Picks program is suggested. Limited to 15 members and 5 cars. 3-3 1/2 hour drive. "A collection based garden with an emphasis on well-placed and superbly grown foliage plants arranged in naturalistic design". Renowned to be spectacular in fall! Sign-up tonight or until 5pm, Thurs, Oct 13th with Audrey. Map will be distributed in October. [www.millergarden.org](http://www.millergarden.org)

## **THE PARLOUR SHOW PROPOSAL: (not the final draft!)**

**BACKGROUND:** Over the past few decades, participation in the Parlour Show has waned. When the club was started in 1934, the Showbench was a major part of the club. With society's changes (much faster lifestyles), interest in entering flower show competitions has diminished. The executive feels that Parlour Show still can be a viable part of NWHS but it is time for an entirely new approach.

### **PURPOSE OF THE PARLOUR SHOW:**

- To educate members as to perfection—learn what experts consider “good characteristics” of different plants.
- To teach members how to show an exhibit.
- To be a friendly in-club competition.
- To be a venue for participation and interaction for members.

*In themselves, all these aims are very worthy. However, the very limited participation in the show indicates either the aims are obsolete or the current parlour show format does not entice the members to participate.*

### **THE PROPOSED NEW FORMAT (to be refined!) Our current Parlour Show Schedule will be set aside.**

1. Each month, there will be one simple category. One month previous, the category and its judging criteria will be posted, stated in the newsletter and on our website. Suggestions for categories will be solicited from the membership. We will be able to fine-tune the show to the weather. For instance, if it is a very warm spring. In February we can post that in March we will have a showbench and advertise the category and its criteria.
2. Each month in which there is a showbench, each member can show 3 exhibits in the listed category. There will be no all-season long exhibitor number. Instead each entry will be numbered in sequence: 1, 2, 3... There will be a stack of numbered exhibit slips. An exhibitor will just write her name on the back of her exhibitor slip. i.e. on the bench each entry will have a piece of paper with a number on it. On the back of this piece of paper will be the name of the person who is showing that exhibit.
3. To simplify (and speed up) the set-up, the entries will be in the exhibitor's own container. We will not be lugging in the boxes of vases.
4. During the business portion of the meeting, ballot slips will be handed out. Each person in attendance will receive one ballot slip with which to vote for the one entry she/he feels to be the best according to the simple criteria posted.
5. Voting will take place during the refreshment section of the meeting. This portion of the meeting will probably be extended time-wise to make it easier for members to evaluate the exhibits as well as socialize. We will have available time since the post-speaker parlour show review will be terminated. All ballots are collected in a box. Voting will end at the start of the raffle.
6. During the raffle, all the exhibit slips will be collected—probably just put in the same box.
7. After the meeting and before the next meeting, votes will be tallied.
8. Suggested scoring include:
  - a. For each meeting, highest vote count will get 10 points; 2nd highest, 5 points; 3rd highest, 3 points
  - b. A running total of the votes accumulated by each exhibitor throughout the year be kept and an award would be given for the highest yearly tally.
9. As with the current parlour show, these simpler awards would be presented during our festive year-end celebration.

### **WHAT THIS NEW PARLOUR SHOW FORMAT SHOULD DO:**

1. Eliminate the need for the intimidating schedule. Our present schedule would still be available on our website for reference. It is known as one of the most explicit and complete club schedules.
2. There will be more involvement by members. It is easier to enter. Everyone is a judge.
3. Members will learn an appreciation of “perfection”. Since they are voting according to the listed judging criteria, they will become familiar with what the good characteristics of the entry should be.
4. The meeting will finish with the speaker. It will end with socializing—much nicer than telling people to be quiet. Members will be able to talk to the speakers much more easily.
5. To an extent, we can fine-tune the monthly category with the weather. There is no accommodating drastic unexpected weather changes but each category can be broad.
6. We can incorporate a non-conventional fun category such as sunflower head art or weird squash—definitely not part of the present schedule!

*We feel this format will make it easy for members to enter and easy to participate. If a member wants to get serious about entering showbench competitions, this format will not teach more than the rudiments. With the monthly criteria, we will probably list a few hints on how to highlight the good points of your exhibit. But the emphasis will be on making it fun and easy to exhibit.*

**WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK NOW!! Talk to Ellen or Audrey (or any executive)—or send an email! Please tell us what you think. By the November meeting we would like to have a fine-tuned proposal for you to vote on. Let's get the discussion out of the way before the AGM. Thanks.**

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

We could have labelled August showbench “The Jan and Colleen Showbench” for out of the 57 exhibits on the showbench, 44 of them belonged to these two gals. Jan brought in a whopping 28 exhibits earning her 128 points with 3 of her exhibits scoring Perfect 5’s. Well done both of you!! In all, the showbench had a total of 5 exhibitors.

Tonight will be our last Parlour Show for this year and perhaps the last show as we know it—that is, a show following our current club Parlour Show Schedule Rules. The club executive have proposed a all new format for the show. We would appreciate your views of the proposal (see proposal article). Please talk to Ellen or Audrey—better still, submit your opinions in writing. Email is great. We plan to continue refining the proposed new format. In October, there will be a meeting to fine-tune details before we put it before all members for vote at the November meeting AGM. If you would like to attend the October meeting, tell Ellen or Audrey. We would prefer to have the majority of the discussion at the smaller meeting as to not take up valuable general meeting time in November.

Julia and I would like to thank all who participated in exhibiting over the past 6 months. We’ve had a fun year.

Good luck on tonight’s showbench.

Remember the October meeting is the deadline to enter the Photo and Container contests!

## **PHOTO CONTEST:** Entry deadline Oct Meeting

The complete rules for the photo contest are on the back page of the club roster, on our website under “competitions” and on the bulletin board tonight. Select your 3 best photos in each of the 3 categories (Colour in the Garden; Creatures enjoying the Garden; Overall or Partial View of a Garden). Check the rules for the fine points of each of these categories. YOU choose your best 3 photos. Don’t put your name on the photo. In October, get an “exhibitor number” from Ellen (Parlour Show Secretary)—put that on the back of each photo. Hand your entries to her, specifying the category for each. She will have separate envelopes designating the categories. *You must be the photographer of each of your entries!!*

## **CONTAINER CONTEST:** Entry deadline Oct meeting.

As with the photo contest, the rules for the container contest are on the back of the roster, on the website and the bulletin board. Check the rules for complete details. Although this is not a photo contest, good photos show off your container better than poor photos. Get someone to take the pictures (ask Audrey) if you do not have a good camera. Each member can enter 3 containers. Each entry will can have up to 3 photos showing its attributes—plus each entry must also include a list of the plants in the container. The container must have been created by you. At the Nov meeting, all entries will be posted and each and everyone will have one vote to select the “best”.

## **IN YOUR VEGE PATCH:** by the Urban Gardener

This is one of the best months of the year in your vege patch. With August being so warm and dry, the quality and quantity of crops such as corn, green beans, carrots, tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers and peppers and many other varieties of vegetables makes growing your own veges worthwhile. It’s not too late to plant Swiss chard, lettuce, cabbage and broccoli. Onion sets, for early summer harvesting, can go in any time now until the end of November. Hopefully this month will stay warm enough for tomatoes to ripen on the the vine. I recommend you sow your garlic this month (Brian Minter suggests: on the 19th of this month). Broad beans can be sown near the end of the month.

Let’s discuss the harvesing of sweet corn of which there should be plenty around. There are three types of sweet corn: regular sweet, sugar enhanced and super sweet. Sugar enhanced varieties have greater sweetness but still retain good corn character. When it comes to supersweets, their sheer sugar density tends to eclipse he flavor of the corn itself. They are extremely popular with grocers because the sugars are slow to turn to starch. If you are growing corn, you know you are cooking with the freshest. By the way, if you intend to freeze corn, it has been proven that picking it in the morning, stripping the husks and putting it into freezer bags within 1 hour will hold the sweetness until you eat the corn in the winter. When buying corn, first examine the husks. They should look moist and green. If they have dried out, the kernals are probably starting to dry as well. The husks help keep the kernals fresh and moist which is why peeling them back is discouraged. Instead, use your hands to feel the kernels through the husks. The rows should be well-filled and the kernels plump. Many people also peel back the husks to see if the tip is wormny. Often it is. Corn is very susceptible to pests—but a worm at the tip isn’t a big deal, and if it means fewer pesticides were used, all the better. Just cut off the tip and give it a rinse. The season for corn is short and sweet.

**GardenWorks Appreciation Day:** Thursday, Sept 15th.

## **EMAIL NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS:**

How does this happen?!? Every month we put in a reminder that for Lesley to send out the emails in a painless way, she need up-to-date email addresses. This last month, she had 7 rejected emails!! Please, if you have a change in you email address, tell her—just send her an email at ‘deleted’. So easy! Then you will get the notification! If she can’t get through to you....

## **SEED EXCHANGE NEWS:** by Buff

IT’S THE SEEDY SIDE OF SUMMER and our seed box is looking bereft. Try to leave a few of you plant seed heads to ripen, throw them (or the seeds themselves) into a paper bag or envelope, label them as to variety, colour, height, etc. and either leave them in the seed donation box on the “Free Table” or give them to Buff. She’ll take care of the sorting and packaging. It’s a great way of sharing a bit of your garden with other members. Oh, don’t forget to put your name on these bags of goodies so if we need more details, we can get “em.

**YOU ASKED FOR IT!** This month we have two more requested recipes from our pot-luck picnic: Anna Campores' Cabbage Roll Casserole (also known as Skillet Sausage Supper) and the Nes & Ellen's solution to skunk. As you may have recalled, the night before the picnic their dog interacted with a skunk in the area where the food was to be set-up. By picnic time there was a only a mere wiff of scent.

**SKILLET SAUSAGE SUPPER:** (donated by Anna Camporese)

Preparation time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 30 minutes

Makes: 8 cups

4 hot or sweet Italian sausages (about 1 pound or 500 grams)

1 large onion

1/2 small head cabbage

1 tsp dried basil

1/2 tsp leaf oregano

7 1/2 oz can tomato sauce (about 1 cup)

Using a knife, split and remove sausage skins. Crumble sausage into a large nonstick frying pan and set over medium-high heat. Working sausage with a fork, saute until crumbly and lightly browned (about 10 minutes). Meanwhile, thinly slice onion and shred cabbage. You should have about 10 cups cabbage. With a slotted spoon, remove crumbly sausage from pan and drain on paper towels. Pour off any fat remaining in pan and discard. Return pan to heat and add onion (separating into rings) and cabbage. Sprinkle with basil and oregano. Pour tomato sauce over mixture and lay sausage overtop. Cover, reduce heat to medium and simmer, stirring occasionally, until cabbage is tender, about 20 minutes. Covered and refrigerated, mixture will keep well for at least 1 day. If frozen, cabbage texture will soften.

**DE-SKUNKING RECIPE:** (donated by Nes and Ellen Berg)

For Animals:

1/4 tsp baking soda

1 litre 3% hydrogen peroxide

Dash of mild (Ivory) liquid dish soap.

Mix ingredients together. Wet pet first and pour solution gently over fur, massaging as you go. Avoid eyes and inside of ear.

Rinse well with hose.

For clothes and hard surfaces:

Apply "Reviv-Air" (Superstore brand) or Febreze spray product.

Clothes can then be put into the washing machine.

## **PLANT SALE UPDATE:**

Wow! We have pots! But keep dropping yours off! You may just have that one size that we are short. At the moment, we have loads of quite large pots (about 13" dia, 9" high)—more than we will probably need. If you would like some, ask Audrey. Likewise, if you need any pots of any size, Audrey will gladly distribute some back to you.

Members have been asking: "Is the yard accepting plant material?" Yes and no. At this moment, there is minimal space to heel things in—but this will change in the near future when the squash and beans are pulled and the canna dug up. If you have divided perennials, we can keep them in large pots until space becomes available. Soon, too, the greenhouse will be empty and there will be space for annuals to be over-wintered for cuttings. Like last year, Audrey would love your hanging baskets for the winter. She will tag them to ensure return to the proper owners. They too can be dropped off now—lots of room on the deck. Thanks.

## **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:**

**AUGUST MEETING:** Happy 30th Anniversary VanDusen Gardens!—good luck on your fundraiser for your future improvements! What and interesting history! From golf course to the gem it is today. Loved the slides of "way back when".

**DR. SUN YET SEN CHINESE GARDEN VISIT:**

There were only 4 club members in attendance (maybe the wrong time of year for most members?)—and we all vow to return. A beautiful place. If you go, try to hit 1pm on Saturday. We believe that is the standard time for Elizabeth to guide the tour. She was better than excellent.

**MOUNTAINVIEW CONSERVATION AND**

**BREEDING CENTRE:** A miraculous place! We had 16 on the tour which was advertised to be 1 1/2 to 2 hours long depending on how many animals were visible. Our tour was more like 2 1/2 hours—we saw so many beautiful animals and birds which are sadly very, very rare. An excellent tour, very informative. Return visits by many of us for sure. Tours are by reservation only, phone 604-882-9313. New website: [www.mountainviewsafari.org](http://www.mountainviewsafari.org)

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

■ Last month **Vicki Dashwood-Jones** joined NWHS—and she's already been on a club outing! Way to use your membership! Welcome!

■ Are interested in sketching? The idea has been put forward that perhaps some members would like to get together to form a **Sketching Group**. Get together and sketch plants, gardens or whatever. This is an idea in its infancy and the direction it goes depends on who is interested—and what they are interested in. **Ursula McNamara** (604-521-3146) has volunteered to collect names of those interested. If sufficient interest is shown, we will work on making it an official part of the club next year.

■ Items currently in the club's **Lost & Found**: one plate (left behind by a goodie donator at the May meeting?); one slotted spoon (left behind at the picnic). These items and any future lost & found items are (will be) in Audrey's possession.

■ **Plant a Row, Grow a Row** is collecting produce for the foodbank, Monach House and other places that feed the needy. If you have extra produce (It has been a great growing season!), drop it off at St. Aiden's Church at 7th Ave & 14th St between 9:30 and 10:30 on Sunday morn. They are anticipating "Harvest Day at West Coast Seeds" which will probably be in about a month and involves "extreme harvesting". If you think you would like to help (the more, the merrier), give Joan Miller (604-540-1929) your phone number or, better still, your email address. Her email address is 'deleted' It will be very short notice of the exact date. For this harvest, many sturdy boxes are required. If you have such, please drop them off into Audrey's carport (117 Seventh Ave) and she will hold them until the day.