

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 8pmt

February, 2006

CLUB MEETING CALENDAR:

FEBRUARY MEETING: Tonight: Tues, Feb 14th, 7:45pm, GWEN ODERMATT of "Petals & Butterflies Farm Nursery" in Langley on "GARDENING TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES". All club memberships expire at the end of Feb. Renew yours tonight. Best deal in town at \$10.

MARCH MEETING: Tues, Mar 14th, 7:45, "BRAD JALBERT ON ROSES". Brad is known as the Lower Mainland's rose guru and his nursery, Select Roses, in Langley, is known as the place to buy roses. We are arranging a follow-up outing at the nursery. *Also at this meeting, we will be voting on the Parlour Show motion.*

CLUB OUTINGS:

Westminster Quay 1st Annual Home & Garden Event:

Fri/Sat/Sun, Feb 24/25/26 at the Quay. This is a community based event. Several city groups have been invited. NWHS will have a display. Check us out. A great event to attend even if it is just to indulge in the huge scheduled gardening book sale at Timeless Books.

BC Council of Garden Clubs 2006 Annual General Meeting:

Sat, March 18th, 9:00 to 2:30, PNE Boardroom. \$20 admission includes hot buffet lunch. Presentations on Water Gardens and the Dart's Hill Conservancy. Plant sales, most amazing raffle. Sign-up with payment tonight. Tonight, because the treasurer's table is having its busiest night of the year, Carole Forsythe will be taking your registration (and money) at the head table. After the meeting, contact Carole at 604-515-1927 to sign-up—deadline is Mon, March 6, 5pm. More about the B.C. Council elsewhere in this newsletter.

A Visit to Select Roses: Sat, March 25 is the *tentative* date. Details will be known at the March meeting. There is a preliminary sign-up sheet tonight. Map available next month. Brad Jalbert will give a history of the development of Select Roses, a tour of the nursery and a hands-on demonstration of how to prune and plant roses. Great selection of plants for sale!

NOT ORGANIZED OUTINGS BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES TO ATTEND:

B.C. Home & Garden Show: Feb 22-26, B.C. Place. If you are looking for a free admission, the BC Council of Garden Clubs is still looking for 2 people to man their booth on opening night, 4-10pm. Call Elaine Senft at 604-929-2928, email rosebloom@telus.net.

Seed Saturday: Sat, Feb 25th, 10am-4pm, Floral Hall, VanDusen Botanical Garden. Talks, great variety of exhibitors from apple trees to heritage seed. Admission by donation. See VanDusen information on our bulletin board in foyer.

Hellebore Hurrah: Fri,Sat,Sun, Mar 3-5, 10am-5pm. Opening weekend at Phoenix Perennials with a special selection of Hellebores and early spring blooming plants. 3380 No. 6 Road (between Cambie & Bridgeport), Richmond.

www.phoenixperennials.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: by Audrey

Welcome to the 2006 version of NWHS!

Every year, I make up your membership cards. Yep, if your name is misspelled, you can blame me. I like doing it because, as I do it, I mentally bring up the face that matches the name. This year, I was dismayed at how many of you I could not visually place. This is not good. I've mentioned this to a few people and the word has come through to me that the executive gives the impression of being a clique and people feel separated from it. Regretfully, in retrospect, I think that might be true. We don't mean to be a clique. It comes from doing so many club things together and having our heads down while doing them. The part about being unapproachable hurts. My vision of the club is a community of gardening friends, some of which volunteer to take on the tasks of delivering what the rest want. Recently I've talked to a new executive member, Lori Graham, about this perceived problem. She is also a relatively new member. She has volunteered to act as "New Member Liaison" between new members and the executive. Tell us how it is. Be truthful. If you feel uncomfortable about speaking directly to me, talk to Lori. I will make a more concerted effort to connect and mix with you. I urge the rest of the executive to do the same. I think instead of just asking your opinions (which we won't stop doing!), the executive has to get to know you personally and "know" your opinions. Enough groveling...

This year, you will notice that the responsibilities of several of the executive members have shifted—only to serve you better! Thankfully, I've downloaded some responsibilities onto other shoulders. It is best if you have an inquiry or suggestion to go to the executive member in charge of that area. Don't know who it is? Ask me & I will direct you.

Audrey Barnes (604-526-8284 before 8pm): Plant sale (overall & prep), newsletter, Queensborough Fair

Carole Forsythe (604-515-1927): Speakers, outings

Mary Barnard (604-525-5928): nametags, roster

Sharon Seki (604-525-1611): club communications; plant sale (tags & pictures)

Lori Graham (604-469-9316): club competitions; new member liaison; buyer for raffle

Lori Jenvey (604-644-8266): Webmaster

Monica Mowat (604-521-3906): Library, plant sale (plant collection)

Ann Paisley (604-517-0408): raffle

Roy Pegler (604-520-6467): head phoner, the Urban Gardener

Lesley Wood(604520-1959):emails, finance committee

PARLOUR SHOW PROPOSAL: by Lori Graham and Audrey Barnes

There has been much talk in recent months regarding the viability of our Parlour Show. Last month, a group of interested members met to evaluate the current format. The discussion was based on members' comments, NWHS historical data and interviews with other clubs regarding their Parlour Shows. A proposal for change was put forward and all at the meeting agreed that it had potential and should be implemented for 2006 pending a vote by the general membership. It is anticipated that this proposal will provide a "happy medium" for all members and that the new format will encourage all members to want to participate. The new format is expected to enhance the "learn to garden" emphasis of the meetings as well as foster an atmosphere for sharing and communication between members. Next month there will be a vote on the following motion:

THE MOTION: *It is moved that the existing April to September Parlour Show be discontinued and replaced by 4 events during the year: a "Show & Share" at the April and September meetings; a "Closed Show" at the June meeting and an "Open Show" at the Queensborough Fair in late September. This format is to be implemented for 2006 and evaluated by the executive in January 2007.*

EXPLANATION OF TERMS:

"Show & Share": Members will be invited to bring items from their gardens to exhibit, ranging from something of which they are proud to something they would like identified. Photos are welcome if members do not wish to cut their plants (or if they are too big to transport!). There is no judging. The idea is to show what each of you grow and share it with others. Tables will be set up around the perimeter of the room. All the items brought in by one member will be grouped together. Cards will be available for labeling (member's name and plant name). Teatime will be extended to enhance interaction. Each member who brings in items will be entered in a participation draw. There will be one draw entry per member (not one entry per exhibit). Three names will be drawn for awards of \$25, \$15 and \$10.

"Closed Show" in June: This will be a judged show for members only (i.e. "closed"). June was selected because it is the summer month in which members are most likely not to be on holiday. Exhibit classifications will be less structured than in the current Parlour Show. For example, instead of several classes of Hybrid Tea roses, there might be one class "Rose, single bloom on stalk". Judging will be within each class i.e. within each class a first, second and third placing will be awarded. Each exhibit will be individually judged on the point basis. Each "perfect 5" earns that exhibitor an award of \$5 cash. The "Best in Show" Award will be a people's choice award i.e. all members will have a vote for the exhibit deemed the best. To fine-tune as much as possible for weather conditions, the show schedule will not be finalized until the May meeting. In the May newsletter, there will be guidelines on "how to show" for each class. There will be some vegetable classes but because June is early for vegetables, the emphasis will be on flowers. There will also be decorative classes. The emphasis of the June meeting will be the show and it is anticipated to be quite an event!

"Open Show" at Queensborough Fair: The club is talking over the organization of the horticultural competition at the fall fair. This show will be open to people other than club members (i.e. "open") and will be a judged show. Classes will be relatively unstructured as in our June show. There will be flower, vegetable and decorative classes and first, second and third prizes will be awarded in each class.

2005 PARLOUR SHOW AWARDS:

Showbench Awards:

Last December saw what might be the final awards ceremony for a season-long NWHS showbench. Ellen Berg had tallied the scores and she and the Parlour Show judge, Jennifer Zuk, presented awards to the most successful participants of the showbench. Congratulations to all the winners—and to those of you who tried. You are winners too. A multitude of envelopes, beautifully calligraphed by Merrill Hall (nice work, Merrill—thanks!) were handed out.

Five members scored "perfect 5's on their exhibits"

Ellen Berg: 1
Colleen Graham: 1
Molly Stone: 2
Jan Potter: 3
Julia Goulden: 4

If you have never competed in the showbench, you will have no idea of what a thrill it is to get a perfect score on an exhibit. Julia with her 5 perfect scores received the "High 5" Award.

Winners for the individual categories:

Cut flowers & Plants: Colleen Graham
Fruits & Vegetables: Jan Potter
Decorative: Colleen Graham

Overall Point Total Winners:

3rd Place: Molly Stone
2nd Place: Jan Potter
1st Place: Colleen Graham

One of the treats of the presentation was the astonishment of Colleen Graham. She had no idea that she would be called up again and again and again. Colleen, you are the champ of the 2005 Showbench! Good show!

Photo Contest:

A bit suspicious here—who handed those envelopes over to our Photo Contest Judge, Steve Grover?

Colour in the Garden:

3rd Place: Hilda Stanger
2nd Place: Linda Turnbull
1st Place: Steve Barnes

Creatures Enjoying the Garden:

3rd Place: Steve Barnes
2nd Place: Audrey Barnes
1st Place: Audrey Barnes

Overall or Partial View of a Non-Commercial Garden:

3rd Place: Lesia Gojda
2nd Place: Linda Turnbull
1st Place: Audrey Barnes

Container Contest:

Winner: Audrey Barnes (Bog Garden)

LIBRARY NEWS:

Just a quick review of how our library works. Members are invited to borrow books for a one month loan period. Take a book home this meeting, bring it back next meeting. Pretty simple! Monica Mowat, our librarian, has updated the list of books we have. The list is at the library table. Do you see a book you would like to borrow, but it is out? See Monica about putting your name on the reservation list. When the book is returned and you are at the meeting, you get to sign it out next. Check in when you arrive to alert Monica that you are present and would still like the book. Also pretty simple! Of course all this is dependent on the books being returned in a timely manner. Please be responsible about returning them on time. If you miss the meeting, both Monica and Audrey are willing to receive the books at their homes. There is really no excuse for a late book. The books are for all the members to use.

We are constantly upgrading our library stock. If there is a book you feel "no gardening library should be without" discuss it with Monica. We all have different gardening interests. If you want books reflecting your interests, tell her! We do accept donations of books. Be aware that the library is of limited size and emphasis is on current books. Show the book(s) to Monica. She may suggest that it is kept over for the Silent Auction or put on the free table. Sometimes, donated books end up on the raffle table.

B.C. COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS:

What's it all about? The council is an umbrella group of the garden clubs of B.C. plus other parties interested in horticulture and floral design. In the recent Bulletin, the council's newsletter, its president Margaret Nakahara wrote an excellent article entitled "What's in it for Us?". *A reprint of the article is on our bulletin board as is the "Bulletin" itself.* Topics covered: our insurance; the Scholarship Trust Fund, list of Judges, Public Relations Committee, Speakers List, BC Council Meetings, liaison with governments and other groups. It finishes with the statement: "The BC Council of Garden Clubs is only as good as the members it represents and it is up to each of its members to contribute and share information and expertise. And it is also up to the members to come forward as leaders and take on executive rolls in the running of this organization." Their annual AGM is coming up (March 18th) and there are positions vacant on the executive as current terms are ending. Open are **Treasurer, 1st Vice President** and **Bulletin Editor**. If you are interested contact Phyllis Knutson at 604-530-2035 or pnknu7@shaw.ca. In the past, several members of NWS have held executive positions. The club strongly supports the Council. We generously give to their scholarship fund. At the meetings, we periodically help out. Arrangement of our insurance through the Council is inexpensive and extremely hassle-free. We use their speaker list. The twice-annual meetings are most enjoyable.

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

Happy New Year everybody. My New Year's motto: If unsuccessful last year, this is another year to try again. Hopefully, I might be able to help you get another good vege crop. Owing to a very wet winter, the first thing I would like you to do is to apply a dressing of quick acting lime this month. If the soil is workable, get the green peas, broad beans, garlic (if you missed planting them last fall!), Spanish onion seeded. Sow lettuce, broccoli, chard and spinach inside to be transplanted in March. To summarize seed sowing:

1. Don't overseed as most vegetable seeds will last a couple of years.
2. Germination temperature should be constant and warm, up to 20-25°C. For example at 25°C, it takes only 2 1/2 days for lettuce seeds to sprout but at 20°C, it takes 4 days—about twice as long.
3. Water should be warm, not cold, as cold will slow the growth. I add a little 20-20-20 to the water after the plants get their third leaf.

Other early spring jobs that would help in getting a good vege season are mixing some compost into the soil, spraying lime-sulfur & dormant oil on the berry canes, keeping the weeds down, aerating the vege plot when the sun comes out so as to warm the soil. If you are going to grow potatoes, try to get them early and place them in a tray with the sprouting end uppermost. Keep them in a cool but light spot to develop March when the frost has gone. I am referring to the early growing potatoes. Prepare raised beds for them to prevent rotting.

GardenWorks Appreciation Day: February 16th.

PLANT A ROW, GROW A ROW:

This worthwhile program is anticipating another great year. If you are not familiar with it, it diverts excess produce from home gardens to the foodbank. Want to learn more? Attend the **Gardener's Party** on Thursday, March 23rd at St. Aidan's Church (14th St and 7th Ave). Doors will open at 6 and the event will start at 6:30. For the admission fee of a donation for the foodbank, you will get to hear some great speakers: Conway Lum (GardenWorks at Mandeville), Alan Reid (GardenWorks on Lougheed), Mary Ballon (West Coast Seeds) and Brian Minter. You will learn how the program works plus get some great vegetable gardening tips. Did we mention prizes? It is a fun event and great way to kick off the 2007 PAR-GAR season. Last year they collected and distributed over 40,000 pounds of produce!

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: Lesley sends out a great email every month. Help her out by keeping her email address list up-to-date. Thanks.

THIS 'N' THAT:

■ **Who is that voice?** Every month, members are contacted by email or by phone to alert them about the upcoming meeting and other club events. If you receive the email, you know it is the creation of Lesley Wood. But do you know who your phoner is? Who is the person attached to the voice? Check the name tags tonight and thank the following for their diligence in keeping us in the know: **Deidre Antonelli, Diane Escalane, Joyce Goodman, Joy Makepeace-Smith, Patti Kemp, Florence Ustare, Norma McFadden & Loraine Cassidy.** Roy Pegler is the head phoner.

■ **FREE to a good home:** U-move. Large 15-20 year old split leaf philodendron. This plant has actually bloomed in its current sunny location (fragrant, white spathe like flowers that close at night). Owner wants to get a new puppy. Philodendrons are toxic to dogs, so the plant must go. Contact Kathy Donaldson (604-521-4961) if interested. Colleen Graham has seen this plant so if you want further details tonight, ask her. Would take 2 people to move.

■ Shelagh Penty (604-524-1596) is redoing the "look" of their condo. She has decided to change her sofa. Check the bulletin board for details. Not free, but a good deal!

■ Anna Camporese (604-525-0543) is getting serious about her garden re-design. She has a beautiful pyracanthus that she loves but just does not have a good spot for it. Over 6 feet high but can be pruned back for ease of removal. FREE but U-dig! Great winter berries for birds.

■ Fir tree in pot: FREE! Patricia (604-520-6945) has a 6' fir (variety unknown) in a pot of sterilized soil. Purchased a few years ago from GardenWorks but now is just too big for her balcony.

■ Crossroads Hospice Society has posted some volunteer gardening opportunities on CharityVillage.com. They are for help at their flower and vegetable garden beds at Colony Farms Community Garden. Garden Coordinator coordinates and mentors teens and adults at the beds; duties include planning and preparing the beds for planting, maintaining gardens during growing season and doing fall clean-up as well as scheduling and sharing knowledge with less experienced gardeners. Expected commitment is 4-6 hours per week. Gardeners or assistant gardeners: help plant, weed, water and cultivate flowers and vegetables. Expected commitment is 1-2 hours per week. Contact Barb Henham, Executive Director of Crossroads Hospice Society at barb.henham@crossroadshospice.bc.ca asap.

■ **Judy Newton** retired last fall after more than 18 years with the UBC Botanical Garden. She initially joined the Garden as a summer student while completing her Plant Science B.Sc. After graduating, she was hired to be the Garden's Education Assistant, moving on to become Education Coordinator. She taught hundreds of home gardening courses, regularly appeared on the *Canadian Gardener* and *Yard Yak*, and has spoken extensively to gardening groups throughout B.C., Alberta and Washington. She worked closely with the Friends of the Garden, school groups and has written two books. Continuing her tradition as a public face for the Garden's promotion, Judy continues to be a columnist for *Gardens West*.

PLANT SALE NEWS:

Amazing how fast the plant sale season comes up on us! As you should know, Royal Square Mall is once again our plant sale hosts. Fantastic generosity on their part. The date is **Sunday, May 7th.**

THE SALE COMMITTEE: We have an excellent group to steer the plant sale this year. Contact the members below if you are interested in working on a certain section of the sale. It would be great to have some "new persons in training" learning about how the sale works

Sale chairperson: Audrey Barnes

Plant Collection: Monica Mowat

Plant Preparation: Audfey Barnes

Plant Tags & Signage: Sharon Seki

Publicity & Communication: Carole Forsythe

Raffle: Audrey Barnes & Ellen Berg

Set-up: Aldina Isbister & Ann Paisley

Sale-day: Carole Forsythe

Take-down: *your name here????*

Vegetables: Roy Pegler & Val Fabick

Perennials: Lorna Cloutier & Lesley fWood

Annuals: Patti Kemp & Diane Escalante

PUBLICITY IS STARTING NOW. At the head table there are small and large posters available. Small are for you to hand out to friends, neighbours and even casual acquaintances. The large posters are for posting in public spaces such as bulletin boards and, just before the sale, on telephone poles. Take several small and distribute them. Take a large one if you have a spot.

PLANT PREPARATION HAS STARTED: See the "Plant Sale Extravaganza" for details. At this very moment, ***there is a huge number of plants in the carport that must be potted before the forecast freeze this upcoming weekend. Hold off on dropping more plants off until after the freeze.*** Please check with Audrey about working in the yard tomorrow to process as many as possible.

GROWING FROM SEED: Two members, Patti Kemp and Audrey Barnes, are the main "from seed" growers. There are some other members also growing minor amounts—*who are you?* If you have grown for past sales, you know how the system works. If you would like to try your hand at growing for the sale, talk to Audrey. We would love more members to take on some of the responsibility.

LIST OF WANTED PLANTS: Obviously there isn't room in the newsletter to list the plants. It is always tricky printing out a list because members tend to consider it as an exclusive list i.e. plant not on the list, the club doesn't want it. Not so! The more likely situation is we want the plant but didn't think of it! Last year we made up a list as part of the Extravaganza publication and have reprinted a few copies. See Audrey if you want one.

THE YARD WORK CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT MONTH IS AT THE HEAD TABLE—PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME! Thanks.