

# 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;

July 2006

## **CLUB MEETING CALENDAR:**

**JULY MEETING:** Tonight, Tues, July 11th. Herb enthusiast (understatement!) and NWS member, LINDA TURNBULL will be talking on "GROWING HERBS IN THE LOWER MAINLAND (as experienced by Linda Turnbull)". The emphasis will be culinary herbs. Expect a fact filled evening. Our apologies to those of you who came primarily to hear Rudy Pinkowski on exotic plants and palms. We booked him in early 2006 but something has gone amiss. If we paid Carole an hourly wage for the time she has spent trying to confirm him, the club would be bankrupt. Also tonight, we will be voting on two money related motions.

**AUGUST MEETING:** Tues, Aug 8th, 7:45pm. DR. ALAN REID, of GardenWorks, on "SOILS". After Alan talked last year on "Getting Rid of your Lawn", we had many requests to "get that guy back!". Well, come August, "he's back!" Healthy plants grow in healthy soil—and Alan will give us hints of how to get that basic good stuff.

## **CLUB OUTINGS:**

**Sketching Group meetings:** We had a great turnout at the inaugural meeting (19!) and since then, members have sketching at 1pm on Wed & Sat—but in drastically smaller groups. Tonight we are trying to see who is interested in those two days i.e. there are new sign-up sheets at the head table. Please indicate your preference—either day, both days or a different day altogether. We hope to devise a monthly schedule of locations so you will have a written notice in advance.

**Sapperton Landing/ Glenbrook Ravine Guided Walk:** Sat, August 5th, 8:00am at Sapperton Landing; 8:40am at Glenbrook Ravine. Sign-up and pick up map at the head table tonight. See article elsewhere in newsletter.

**Annual NWS Garden Tour & Pot Luck Picnic:** Coming up quickly, Sat., July 15th. Hopefully the cool but dry weather will prevail. As you probably know, this is one of our major social events of the year. After touring 5 member's gardens as a group, we meet at Nes & Ellen Berg's for the annual pot-luck picnic. There is an handout and map with itinerary available tonight. Please take one. We all visit one garden at one time to facilitate the hosting members joining the excursion. As we have stated, please no small children on the tour. Although Ellen says that children are welcome to the picnic, it is mainly an adult affair for members and their spouses. Also, be warned, Ellen has a large dog. The event goes forward rain or shine.

There is no sign-up sheet for the tour but there is for the picnic. It is at the head table. Please tell us the number in your party and what you plan on bringing. After tonight, phone Audrey to sign-up (or delete). For your dish, the amount should be enough to feed 6 to 8 people. The club will be supplying hot and cold beverages. We will also supply drinking glasses, disposable plates, plastic cutlery and napkins. It is also standard that the club also purchase some cold-cuts to lessen the need for meet dishes. If you have food allergies, please tell Audrey so we can inquire of troublesome dishes before we dig in. We do have a fair number of chairs but if you have one that is easily transportable, bring it along. We also think we have the awning/umbrella situation covered but if you have one, put it in your vehicle just in case. *Make sure you put your name on everything you bring: serving bowl, serving utensils, chair, umbrella, cooler—makes sorting the left-behinds so much easier!*

Once again we will have a "Garden Stumps" quiz to challenge your plant knowledge and lateral thinking. The quiz is comprised of a plant list and a clue list. You search the garden to determine each plant's identifying number. Then you match the plant to the appropriate clue and insert the number. Last year we had an 100% correct score—a rarity since most of the clues are pretty far-fetched. Both members of that winning team will be absent this year. So just like le Tour de France, the field is wide open. Good luck. The coveted trophy is on display tonight.

RAIN OR SHINE, WE PARTY!

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

Well, that rain storm of 5 drops this morning didn't water much! Do you find that because we are in our annual water restriction season, you are more conscientious about watering? I find it to be a mental reminder to get the hose out. Who looks to see if the poor plants are wilting and hitting their heads against the hard, dry dirt (er, soil)?

Lots happening in the club. I thought the show last month was quite fun. I don't think I have ever monitored the condition of the few blooms in my garden so closely. I was amazed how many of the categories on the schedule were already over. Tricky weather. Quite enjoyed showing for one month but I think it would become a chore over a stretch of months. Getting out into the yard to spend a few hours sketching every week also has got me to really looking at the plants. It is quite a nice break—put everything on hold and enjoy the garden instead of working in it. That said, I will have to miss tomorrow's sketching group because there is an excessive number of (large!) weeds to be extracted before you come to the garden on Saturday.

Many thanks to the club members who are opening their gardens on Sat. My garden was the back-up which was recruited when conflicts arose for 2 of the potential gardens. At this point, I have 5 potential gardens for next year!!! Wow! That is unprecedented!

## **JUNE WAS SHOW MONTH:**

### **NWHS JUNE 2006 SHOW REVIEW:** by Lori Graham

The June 2006 Show produced a blaze of color and ideas for member's viewing pleasure. 17 eager Exhibitors provided 88 exhibits for judges and members to examine. Ribbons were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each of the 29 classes.

There were 21 First place ribbons, 18 Second place ribbons and 14 Third place ribbons awarded. Congratulations to Jan Potter and Debra Halbig who tied for the highest number of First place ribbons winning 3 each with their spectacular exhibits.

Of the 53 ribbons awarded in total Debra Halbig won 8, Jan Potter won 7, Colleen Graham won 6 and Molly Stone, Audrey Barnes and Lori Graham tied with 4 ribbons each. The remaining exhibitors won either 1, 2 or 3 ribbons each.

The "Best in Show" People's Choice Award went to Silina Nakatsu for her floral art vegetable display "Let's Eat" (*It looked too good to eat!—ed*). We know she has made use of the GardenWorks Landscaping Design certificate (valued at \$150!) and look forward to viewing Silina's "before" and "after" pictures.

Thanks again to Audrie Vander Werf of GardenWorks for attending the show and presenting the "Best in Show" prize and to our judges Jennifer Zuk and Marilyn O'Neill for sharing their expertise with us. A big Thank You to our 17 exhibitors who helped to brighten the evening by sharing their beautiful flowers, vegetables, herbs and displays with the NEHS membership.

### **SHOW SURVEY REVIEW AND OTHER IDEAS:**

Many thanks to you who handed in the survey sheets last month. We have taken an overall read of them and will look at them further. Many of you stated that you did not enter because you have no time—that is OK. I'm sure every one of us have experienced similar time squeezes. We hope you enjoyed looking at the exhibits even though you did not show yourself. We agree that there should probably be two "Best in Show" awards, one for floral art and the second for all other exhibits. The floral art is on an entirely different level effort to exhibit. Most of you thought the schedule was OK. More guidance before the show would definitely enhance participation. Tables must be arranged differently to enhance viewing of the exhibits. Some did not like the winners names being written on the exhibit slips. That was done so you could acknowledge the winners. We felt the amount which it skewed the voting would be minimal. We had hoped to verbally announce all the winners but the judges' review took longer than expected. There is drastic misunderstanding of the purpose of the April "Show and Share". Definitely some work to be done there before the September meeting. The business portion of the meeting takes too long. The choice of July or June for show months was a close split. The gardens are so weather dependent that it is tricky to choose.

**OVERALL CONCLUSION:** The replacement for the season-long Parlour Show needs fine tuning but looks like a keeper!

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:** A review of last month's presentation: In keeping with our "June is Show Month" theme, we invited Archie Miller, renowned New West historian, to speak on The New Westminster Exhibition. Through research of written media (mainly old newspapers and exhibition records) he traced the start of the show to its end when the buildings in Queens Park burned down. Boy were things different! How the concept of a show has changed!

## **QUEENSBOROUGH FAIR COMPETITIONS:**

The list has been made and is currently being put into flyer form. Here is a preview: All categories are open to all, but entries will be judged within the following age groups:

Kids (up to 10 years)

Youth (10-17 years inclusive)

Adults (18 years and older)

In judging, bonus consideration will be given to any entry that is related to the fair theme "Chickens"

### **Arts & Crafts:**

Collections: please cover your collection with plastic wrap to protect it

Egg decorating: please no raw eggs, use hard boiled or blown

Rock painting

Scrapbooking Page: any theme but, you know, if it is related to chickens

Woodworking: Bird House (fit for a chicken?)

Needlework: Embroidery, cross-stitch, crewel

Quilting

Knitting & Crocheting

Sketching: doesn't need to be framed, but please protect your creation with plastic sleeve or wrap, 9 x 12" max size

"Vegetarian Chicken": create a chicken from vegetables

Limerick: must start with "There once was a chicken..."

### **Cooking:**

Pies: Bake your favorite. Single crust. Double crust and crumb crust judged separately. A disposable plate is a must as all winning pies will be auctioned off.

Cookies & bars: each exhibit must have 3 units of one type. Enter several types

Cup cake decorating: a collection of 3

All things sweet: eg. jams, jellies, canned fruit

All things tart: eg. Pickles, relishes, antipasto

**Horticulture:** All must be grown by exhibitor unless otherwise stated:

Single bloom on stem: any flower. Enter several types.

Sunflowers: 1 stalk, can be single or multi-bloom

Sunflowers: biggest head.

Zucchini: largest

Weirdest vegetable (most odd shape)

Tomatoes, apples, carrots, potatoes: your best and matching 3

"Hens & Chicks Planter": a living container of "hens & chicks" plants. Can include other accessories

"Fruit basket": artistic design using at least 3 types of fruit from your garden. Can include other accessories.

"Just Add Chicken": artistic design using at least 3 different vegetables and/or herbs that you would use in chicken soup. Must have been grown in your garden. Can include other accessories.

"Feathered fantasy": artistic design incorporating feathers. Can include other accessories. Materials need not be from your garden i.e. can purchase flowers, feathers.

"Seeds of Septemberr": artistic design using dried seeds only or with dried flowers—no fresh materials allowed. No other accessories besides container allowed. Materials need not be from your garden i.e. can purchase.

## **MONEY VOTES:**

Tonight we will be voting on 2 motions.

**BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Trust Fund donation motion:** *“NWHS donate \$2000 of plant sale proceeds to the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Trust Fund”*. This is the same amount that we donated last year. The money we donate goes to the fund’s capital. It is the interest earned from this capital that is actually awarded to the students. Annually 11 scholarships are awarded to horticultural students in B.C. post-secondary institutions. They range from \$250 to \$1000; total amount awarded \$6900 (2005 figures). The individual colleges and universities select the winners.

**2006 NWHS donation budget motion:** *“NWHS allots \$1000 to the NWHS Donations Committee to be available for distribution to worthy and eligible organizations, programs and initiatives in the year 2006, following the chronological sequence of nomination by NWHS member, evaluation by the committee and finally approved by vote by the NWHS executive”*. There will be an annual vote on the maximum amount of money that the Donations Committee can distribute. The money amount each year will be based on the success of our plant sale. If no worthy recipients are determined within the year, the money will not be donated. The NWHS membership will not vote on the individual proposed donations. This motion authorizes the Donations Committee to propose the donation to the executive who will then vote on behalf of the membership. Nominations from members should be submitted to Carole Forsythe by Sept 30, 2006 to allow time for the rest of the procedure to be completed before the end of the year. See Carole or Audrey for a nomination form. Recipients must be in these fields: gardening/horticultural education; horticultural research; native plant habitat restoration; gardening-related programs that will benefit the community or a needy segment of the community. Preference will be given to New Westminster-based organizations or initiatives. The recipient cannot be politically or religiously affiliated. It cannot be a lobby group. The award cannot benefit one specific individual. *Two annual club donations are outside the money involved in this motion. These are the club’s annual donation to the BC Council of Garden Clubs’ Scholarship Trust Fund and the Christmas donation to an worthwhile local charity which has our Christmas raffle as its base.*

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## **NEW WESTMINSTER SENIOR SECONDARY**

**SCHOLARSHIP:** For the past two years the club has offered a scholarship to a student graduating from NWSS who is going on to study in a horticulturally related field. The school submitted a short list of potential recipients to the club, the executive voted on the final winner. If we are to donate this scholarship again for a student graduating next year, it must be nominated and evaluated by the Donations Committee against other 2006 nominations.

This year Jeff Fedoruk won the \$250 scholarship. He wrote a thank you note to us: *“To Ms. Lori Jenvey and everyone at the New Westminster Horticultural Society. I am extremely grateful to have received your generous scholarship. It will play a crucial, as well as immediate role in my post-secondary ambitions. I have been accepted into the Faculty of Arts at the University of British Columbia. After completing the required prerequisite, I will enter the Bachelor of Environmental Design Program in hopes of pursuing a career in Landscape Architecture. I believe that nature has a huge role in design, and I hope to emphasize this in my studies. Your award makes this possible. I wish everyone at the New Westminister Horticultural Society the best in the future, and thank you once again. Sincerely, Jeff Fedoruk.”* The best to you in your endeavors, Jeff.

**IN YOUR VEGE PATCH:** by the Urban Gardener, also known as Roy Pegler (604-520-6467) who would love talk “grow’n veges” with you.

This is the month we gardeners love to harvest a lot of our early spring sowings and plantings. Keep picking the green peas, broad beans, broccoli and early potatoes before the hot weather dries them out. Garlic should be ready for harvest by the end of July when the tops have died down. With long spells of hot dry weather, watering this month is very important, especially with lettuce and tomatoes. Be careful not to get water on the leaves of the potato plants. It’s still time to sow and plant in pots if space is a factor. The pot should be a minimum of 6” deep and 12” in diameter. Fill with good potting soil and a little compost to about 3/4 full. Remember to have drainage holes in the pots. Lettuce is the most popular in pots but add spinach or Swiss chard. Broccoli, tomatoes, cabbage and corn can also be grown in pots. Don’t forget potatoes, too, can be grown in a good size container. Be sure to water these crops well and add a little fertilizer such as 6-8-6 or slow release 14-14-14.

Crops to sow this month in the “in ground” garden are lettuce, Swiss chard, broccoli and spinach. These will produce late crops in the fall.

**GardenWorks Appreciation Day:** Thurs, July 20th.

## **PHOTO & CONTAINER CONTESTS:**

We have our garden tour in July because that is often when gardens look the best. Does this give you a hint that perhaps it is also the best time to check those rules for the photo and container contests that are on the back of the recently distributed roster? Get out that camera! The garden view category does not have to be of your personal garden but it must be of a home garden. You are going to be viewing some pretty impressive gardens this Saturday. For the container contest, although it is not a photo contest, a good photo does make your container look better. If you do not have a good camera, Audrey will come over and take some pictures for you. Not this week though—she will be too busy pulling weeds. Check those contest rules now and take the pictures now—and win in November!

## **SAPPERTON LANDING & GLENBROOK RAVINE PARKS:**

New Westminster has a many great parks. These two gems are probably among the most under-utilized, mainly because people don't know where they are located or how to get to them. As club members, our eyes were opened to their existence when Ken Winslow did his great "History of New Westminster Parks" at the club's 70th birthday celebration meeting.

**Sapperton Landing**, technically speaking is not a New West park. It is a GVRD park located in New West (the first and, sadly, the only one). It is part of the Fraser-Brunette Greenway. During the construction of the Millennium Line, the river bank was extended to create land for the park with the emphasis on being a fish and wildlife habitat. Lots of native plants. Great views of the Fraser, of course. Two paths run the length of the linear park—a paved path directly under the skytrain (rather boring & noisy) and a gravel path that follows the river's edge (really interesting!). You can enter the park at either end on foot but to get to the parking lot in a vehicle, you must be driving eastward on Columbia. At the foot of Cumberland (just before Columbia-Brunette split in the road), there is a right exit that goes under the skytrain. The gates to the park are obvious on your right. To exit, you must again go east on Columbia. There is a porta-John on location—not glamorous facilities but serviceable.

**Glenbrook Ravine Park:** This gem is hidden at the south end of Glenbrook Ravine. Won't say too much about it—wreck the surprize! Think: "display of annuals, perennials, tropicals, waterfall, serene pond" and you still would be far off. The city took control of the land for a park as a trade-off when the Penitentiary lands were sold to a private developer. In addition to the cultivated portion of the park there is a gravel road you can walk to the north end of the Ravine—lots of native BC flora & fauna. About a 40 min return walk. The entrance to the park is on Jamieson Court (one block up from Columbia on Richmond)—across from the Queens Park Care Centre and next to Glenbrook Park Amenities (sorry this is privately owned, no public washrooms). Just take the trail to the right of the building. Ample parking.

**NO SCENTS MAKES SENSE:** Please be considerate of fellow club members who have sensitivities to fragrance—leave fragrance to the flowers in your gardens.  
Many thanks.

## **E-MAIL NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS:**

Lesley sends out a great email every month announcing the upcoming meeting. Help her out by keeping her email address list up-to-date. Just send her an email

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

- Last month 4 new members joined our ranks: **Jennifer Cuthertson, Helen Dupuis, Linda Gale & Kathy Siedlaczek**. We hope you enjoy the club. Can't figure out what's going on?—ask! There are probably others who share your queries.
- The **Seed Exchange** has gone into its collection mode. If you have any seeds you have collected, please put them in the shoe box on the free table. Well identified, of course. Buff O'Shaughnessy will package them up for distribution.
- Looking for plant deals: two local (or semi-local, anyway) nurseries are closing down and are offering all remaining stock at extremely good prices. If interested, visit the stores ASAP both are on the verge of running out. **Murray Nurseries** (3140 West 57th Ave between Balaclava & Carnarvon—in the Southlands area) and **Como Lake Nursery** (on Como Lake Rd near Gatensbury in Coquitlam).
- Really interested in getting a **Certificate in Garden Design?** i.e. willing to put out a few bucks. UBC Continuing Studies is again offering a part time program led by Ron Rule. The program will run March to August 2007. Our last application form is on the bulletin board. Open house to find out more is on Sunday, Sept 10 from noon to 1:30. Fees \$3,950. Enrolment limited.
- Looking for something a little less intense and a lot cheaper? Consider signing up for the **Drawing from Nature** workshops at Irving House. "The beautiful gardens of historic Irving House provide an inspirational setting to practice drawing techniques. Join an artist (Angela Au Hemphill) and learn the basic techniques of drawing. All are welcome to spend two afternoons in a heritage setting where the past will inspire the present!" Phone 604-527-4640 to register. \$35.00 (includes some materials). Wed & Thurs 12:30 to 3:30pm. July 19-20 for 13 years and older. July 26 & 27 for 7 to 12 years of age. Sounds like a good follow-up for our sketching workshop!
- Got all your planting done? **Huge stack of pots** cluttering your shed? Why not drop them off to Audrey's carport for use in next year's sale? Just put them there in a pile and periodically Audrey will sort them and discard any broken or non-useable ones. The rejects she just takes to recycling.
- Vinyl 1" Venetian blinds** are also being collected for next year's sale. How about **Christmas craft materials?** Someone just dropped off several bags of gorgeous cones (thank you very much). Actually, the Christmasy stuff is best left just at the back kitchen door so it is noticed and not exposed to inclement weather (not that we've been having downpours recently). If you are in need of some pots, contact Audrey. It is likely that we have some we can give you. Please don't just take from the carport—it would be typical that the pot you choose would be one of her personal ones.
- Did our show last month getting your showing genes buzzing? Really would like to show in July? Here's your chance: Consider the **2006 Maple Ridge Fair: Blue skies & Butterflies Garden Show**. July 22-23 at Maple Ridge Fairgrounds (directions are on the bulletin board). Great day of family oriented fun with an agricultural emphasis. Huge competition component: wine, baking, sewing, all sorts of crafts! Categories for kids too. [www.mapleridgefair.com](http://www.mapleridgefair.com)
- This space available for news tid-bit from you. Want to write a whole article? That would be heaven!



