

# 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 2006

## **CLUB MEETING CALENDAR:**

**NOVEMBER MEETING:** Tonight, Nov 14th, 7:45pm. Three main things happening tonight: Our AGM, you vote on the Container Contest entries and we get to learn about "Growing Vegetables in Small Spaces" from ARZEEMA HAMIR.

**DECEMBER MEETING:** Tues, Dec 12th. At Centennial Lodge as with all our meetings. OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER & SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS!! As anticipated, our dinner tickets are sold out but Mary will put your name on the waiting list tonight (or Audrey will after tonight at her place). If you have bought a dinner ticket but find out by Dec 1st that you cannot make the event, we will refund your ticket. Even after that date, if you know you will need to cancel, talk to Audrey. There will be a very good chance that your ticket will be in demand and we can facilitate a transfer.

### **The agenda for the day:**

**1:00pm:** We will be setting up the prizes. We will need some bodies with vehicles to get this accomplished. If you would like to help, talk to Audrey. It's a great chance to admire and pre-choose.

**6:00pm:** The party starts—but, if you want to sit with a group of friends, arrive early! If you know it is going to be tight time-wise, speak to Audrey about reserving your seats. You will notice that some place-settings will be reserved for personnel involved in putting on the evening. Raffle tickets should be on sale when you arrive. Check in at the foyer to receive your two tickets for glasses of wine. Non-alcoholic punch and bottled water will also be available (no limit). Pick up a quiz, drool over the raffle prizes, buy tickets....

**6:30pm:** The buffet opens.

**7:30pm:** The buffet closes. Final call for raffle ticket purchases will be during dessert.

**Then the party continues:** The pulling of raffle tickets will be done in blocks, interspersed with the door prize draw, the Photo and Container Contest award presentations and the Christmas Trivia Quiz. Non-stop action!

### **The dinner:**

Once again we will be treated to a delicious buffet feast from A & F Caterers. For the vegetarians among us, we have asked again for the meat-less lasagna. Some members have asked that we revert to a main dessert table instead of the plates of sweet offerings on each of our tables removing those temptations from immediate sight-lines. Also, if you have an allergy to chocolate, you will be able to indulge in other treats.

### **Dress codes and all that:**

I guess you could call it: "dress up casual" i.e. no sweat pants. If you want to indulge in Christmas finery, that would be great but don't feel pressure to do so. It is a casual affair. Whatever you wear, please leave fragrance at home!!!!

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

November always seems like a strange time of year for me. With the AGM and changes in the executive personnel highlighted, it really slams into my head "I'm not going to be working closely with....anymore". But then I think, "It has been good" and the retiring executive will have time to do other things. This year, we have 5 executive stepping down: Lori Graham, Lori Jenvey, Ann Paisley, Roy Pegler and Lesley Wood. All have vowed to stay involved but at more select times of the year. Each can be assured that they are on the list for people to call when there is a crunch. It has been great working with you! Thank you for your dedication to the NWHHS.

On the other side, we will be welcoming 5 new members to the executive. New ideas and new life experiences which can only benefit the club. Looking ahead is exciting!

Speaking of looking ahead (a bit of a diversion here). In January we will be doing our annual survey to get feedback about what the club should do. If you have any topic you would like a presentation upon or know of a speaker you think would be great or a place that would be ideal for the club to visit, slip any details into my ear—or that of any of the executive members. Suggestions as to the future of "in-club shows" will be definitely on the survey. Got some ideas? Share them and we will ask for feedback from the members.

## **YOUR (POTENTIAL) 2007 EXECUTIVE**

Barring last minute nominations from the floor (which will mean an actual election!), we will be acclaiming the following as your 2007 NWHHS executive tonight:

**President:** Audrey Barnes

**Vice-president:** Carole Forsythe

**Secretary:** Rose Oke

**Treasurer:** Mary Barnard

**Show Chairperson:** Sharon Seki

**Member at Large:**

Anna Camporese

Debra Halbig

Micheline Ippersiel

Monica Mowat

Silina Nakatsu

A good group. The club is very fortunate to have members who show willingness to get "really involved". The new executive will formally take over after Christmas with the first executive meeting of 2007 on the 2nd Tuesday of January. (no general meeting in January)

**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.

*Roy is retiring from the executive this year (after more than a decade!) so that he will be able to devote himself more to his second love, “veges”. His first love being, of course, Dot. He plans to continue writing this column. Please search him out if you have a vege question.*

This month instead of telling you what to do in your vegetable garden, I would like to share parts of an article I read by Alan Titchmarsh of BBC Gardener’s World:

“Gardening pleasures—remember them? We take them a bit for granted nowadays or else forget about them altogether. Good gardens are a treat for all the senses, not just the obvious one of sight, although we can feel hugely uplifted by colourful flowers, or by a neatly mown and edged lawn. A beautiful garden can get your spirits soaring more enduringly than the latest Porsche or an Armani jacket. So look at your garden more often. Sit in it, stare at it. Look into the middle of a flower and observe how intricately it is constructed. Gazillions of dollars are spent on bottled fragrances every year, but sniff a rose, a lily or sweet pea and you’ll feel of sense of well-being that Chanel can never match. Don’t stop at flowers. Bruise the foliage of mint, or lemon balm, basil or rosemary and inhale deeply. Taste is something all vegetable growers are aware of. Home grown carrots are far sweeter than those bought at the supermarket. Freshly pulled and popped into the pan, they have no time to start decomposing before they are eaten, which is why they taste so sweet. Grow peas and eat them fresh from the pod. New potatoes, crisp lettuce & sweet shallots are just a few of the pleasures harvested from the vege patch. Garden on a regular basis and you’ll keep all your joints moving, inhale masses of fresh air and, in the process, create an environment that is pleasant to live in. Of course there will be moments when your garden lets you down. When it does, try to remember what it should be doing for you. A garden should be easy on the eye—challenging and stimulating yes but above all pleasureable. Your garden is your closest contact with nature. Make the most of that. Once you have worked out what you really want from your garden—and bear in mind that no garden is ever completely finished—you will be well on your way to having one that makes you feel better. With the rush & bustle of everyday life, the garden is the one place where you can escape and unwind. It is calming. Even when you work in it, you can escape the pressures of everyday life and enjoy a different pace. The garden is a place to bring out the best in human spirit. A place where the soul can be touched, as well as the heart.”

**GardenWorks Appreciation Day:** Thurs, Nov 16

**CLUB OUTINGS:** Only one outing left for 2006 but it is a big one! Not counting the plant sale preparation, this is the longest social event of the year! Come out and create and meet some of your fellow members.

**CREATING THE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZES:**

Time to move indoors with our club outings! Starting Nov 20th (next Monday) and potentially everyday up to and including Sunday, Dec 10th, we will be creating the Christmas raffle prizes in Audrey’s basement. Come to the basement door of 117 Seventh Avenue (around the back—just follow sidewalk until it ends). There should be loads of Christmas lights to show your way. The actual dates and times of the craft sessions depends on when you sign the calendar indicating your interest “to craft”. Sign up on the calendar at the head table.

Unless indicated on the calendar, every day and evening (basement closes at 9pm) is available *if* someone signs up in that spot! Don’t know tonight, give Audrey a call 604-526-8284. Every evening about supper time, Audrey will contact all who have signed up for the next day to confirm their attendance. Warning: If by chance, we have a few days of no-rain next week, the day sessions may be cancelled for work on the Christmas light display. Remember: please do not wear fragrance to the sessions. Fragrance free is our aim.

**The materials:** We have a fantastic selection of “stuff”. It is quite amusing to watch the faces of first-timers when they see the variety and amount of materials. Usually, it takes about 15 minutes for a tour (“... and in this room, we have the...”) and 2 hours can go by easily when snooping through the goods. It is hard to list it all. Cones, seed heads, other native materials, fake greenery (never throw out an artificial tree or garland! drop it off at Audrey’s), wreath forms (wire, Styrofoam, grapevine), Styrofoam cones & balls, baskets, glass and plastic containers, Oasis and Sahara foam, lights, glass balls, beads, candles, candle holders, ribbon of all types, ornaments, wire, glue guns & glue sticks. Just loads of different things. It is hard to list it all because it has not been unpacked yet. We purchase some material but rely heavily on donations from members. ***Please donate any Christmas items of which you have grown tired. Don’t feel you are insulting us, if you would like to return a raffle prize from past years. We won’t be insulted at all! Please leave items by the sheltered kitchen door. Working with fresh materials starts on the Thursday before the party (Dec 7th). We will need boughs of all types of evergreen: cedar, holly, fir—you name it! Talk with Audrey if you have some pruning that needs done. Thanks.***

**What we create:** Most of the creations are wreaths, swags, table centers—that type of thing. All are definitely one of a kind! Some are in the “never to be duplicated again!” category.

**Not all raffle prizes come from the basement:** Some members want to contribute but can’t make the sessions or, as in the case of one of our prominent executive members, are “craft challenged”. How about baking some Christmas treats? We have all sorts of tins. If you want to create something at home and then donate it—great! Just warn Audrey that you plan to donate a prize so we make sure we leave room on the display table/wall for it. We like to have all the raffle prizes of a seasonal theme.

## **THE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:**

To many club members, this is the high-light of the Christmas Party. We usually have more than 100 prizes—some absolutely exquisite! Need to say we sell a lot of tickets. Starting in 1997, NWHS started the tradition of donating all the raffle proceeds (plus a nice “top-up” amount) to a charity. We pick a different charity every year. Charities are informally nominated by a NWHS member. This donation is not under the auspices of the Donation Committee.

### **PAST RECIPIENTS:**

The Food Bank  
Wildlife Rescue  
Royal City Humane Society  
Lord Kelvin School Community Garden  
Monarch House  
Alzheimer’s Society of BC  
Union Gospel Mission Drop-In Centre  
New Westminster Salvation Army  
Royal Columbian Hospital Auxiliary

Our 2006 charity is the **CROSSROADS INLET HOSPICE SOCIETY**. Although the actual hospice building is in Port Moody, the hospice serves New Westminster, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and, of course, Port Moody. It offers a compassionate and supportive place for persons succumbing to terminal illness and their families. It has an extensive outreach program. Its volunteers offer counselling at Queens Park care Centre and Royal Columbian Hospital. Our money will be earmarked for the hospice gardens—to be used to buy materials or equipment either for the 2 balcony gardens that are for the residents and their families or for their community garden at Colony Farms at which they grow flowers for the hospice and food for the hospice and SHARE. If you would like to know more about Crossroads, speak with Diana Flostrand (604-931-5129)

## **CONTAINER CONTEST VOTE:**

Many thanks to the club members who have entered the contest and are sharing their container creations with us. During the business section tonight you will receive a pink ballot on which you write the number which corresponds to the container you like the best. Write down only one number. Votes will be counted and the winner will be presented with a 2007 NWHS Membership Gift Certificate in December. Please leave your entries on the wall. We will return them after tonight. Good luck!

### **Judging Criteria:**

Overall effect  
Colour combination  
Plant form/shape  
Suitability of plants for container  
Creativeness

## **AGM VOTES:**

In addition to the slim possibility of a vote to determine the 2007 executive, membership will be voting on the following motions tonight.

### **SPEAKER BUDGET VOTE:**

***The Motion: NWHS allocates \$2000 for the 2007 speaker budget to be used at the discretion of the Speaker Co-ordinator to pay for the meeting speakers.*** This is our standard annual motion for the speaker budget. It enables the speaker co-ordinator to sign up an excellent speaker on the spot and thus not lose the opportunity. The \$2000 is the lump sum total she has to work with for the entire year.

### **PARLOUR SHOW RELATED VOTES:**

These motions involve changing the constitution to encompass a more general description of the executive member in charge of in-club events at which members exhibit. With the club show format in a state of evolution, these motions will allow further change from the old parlour show system or even return to it.

***Bylaw 19 Motion: Change the wording of bylaw 19 by replacing the executive position “parlour show secretary” with “show chairperson”.***

Bylaw 40 currently states, in detail, how the show secretary should run the parlour show. The motion generalizes the duties.

***Bylaw 40 Motion: Change the wording of bylaw 40 to “The show chairperson shall be in charge of all in-club activities in which members show or display exhibits”***

### **FINANCIAL REPORT REVIEW MOTIONS:**

Annually our financial statement and books are “reviewed” by a professional accountant to make sure all is correct and honest. We do not get them “audited” which is an extremely expensive procedure. Currently Bylaw 43 states: “The auditor shall check the accounts of the society together with the statement of income and expenses for the year as prepared by the treasurer”.

***Bylaw 43 Motion: Change the wording of bylaw 43 by replacing the word “check” with “review”.***

Bylaw 44 currently states: “The said audited report must be ready for presentation by the treasurer at the February general meeting”.

***Bylaw 44 Motion: Change the wording of Bylaw 44 by replacing the word “audited” with “reviewed” so that it reads “The said reviewed report....”***

## **EMAIL NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS:**

If you have been receiving the emails from Lesley regarding the meetings, you are aware that after an era of sending out the notices, Lesley has retired from the job. The great attendance at our meetings is definitely, in part, due to her enticements! Thank you Lesley, for a job well done! Anna Camporese will be taking over the keyboard in 2007 but until the changeover is complete, send any email changes to Audrey Barnes. Why not send Lesley an email of thanks.

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:** Last month was the club's **ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION:** We didn't have the overwhelming number of items of the past two years (no estate or moving sales this time!). Which was good. It was actually possible to see the items available. All who got a deal (and there were many!) thank the members who donated prizes and those who spent the afternoon organizing the items. The profits from the evening \$474.80—far from the record but still quite substantial.

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

■Our apologies to **Ellen Berg** whose skill in creating jams was overlooked last month when we listed the winners at Queensborough Fair. Ellen garnered a 2nd & 3rd placing in the "All Things Sweet" category. What a multi-talented person!

■It is starting to look like our offerings at the **Seed Exchange** could be quite impressive come spring—thanks to all of you who have donated seeds. Buff O'Shaughnessy, that keener who does the repackaging and such, says "keep them coming!". If you forgot to drop off your collected seeds tonight, Audrey will gladly receive them on Buff's behalf when you come over to do crafts.

■Recently **Eliza Olson**, who spoke to the club about Burns Bog a few summers ago, has been awarded the honor of Delta's Citizen of the Year for 2006. You may remember that Eliza was a founding member of the Burns Bog Conservation Society which started in 1988. She continues as that group's president and a full-time volunteer.

■**Library News:** Great news for reading in the cold months ahead. You can borrow books from our library tonight to read over the club break. The books will be due at our February general meeting. Of course, you can return books ahead of time by just dropping them off at Audrey's. If you currently have a book out, be prepared to receive a phone call from Monica, our librarian. Over the break, she will be updating our catalogue.

■**Donation Committee News:** Thanks to the members who prepared the 5 nominations for consideration. Carole Forsythe is still looking for a member who would like to be part of the evaluation. Obviously, if you submitted a nomination, you are ineligible. Talk to Carole tonight or call her at 604-515-1927. It won't be a huge time commitment. We hope to be able to announce the winner(s) next month.

#### ■**Interesting e-newsletters:**

■Lee Valley Tools has just started an on-line newsletter. Some written gardening articles plus, of course, highlights of their latest neat gardening stuff. Just follow the links on their website: [www.leevalley.com](http://www.leevalley.com).

■Check out [www.gardendesign.com](http://www.gardendesign.com) for another newsletter. (thanks, Claude, for this heads-up). Lots of great links esp the wall papers and a super plant photo site.

■**The NWHS Store:** For your shopping pleasure, we have:

- Black plastic plant trays: 12", 14" & 18" at \$1 each
  - Hanging basket frames: English style, long-fibre sphagnum moss, 14" at \$5 each.
  - 2007 Membership Gift Certificates @ \$10.
- Purchase from Mary tonight or Audrey after tonight.

### **CULTURAL CORNER:**

#### **QUEENSBOROUGH LIMERICKS:**

Here's the winning limericks from the Queensborough Fair competition. There were 25 entries.

##### **First place: Patti Kemp (NWHS member!!!)**

There once was a chicken who spoke—  
From the instant the she awoke.

As she talked by he mile

The people would smile

And laugh 'cause she told a good yolk.

##### **Second Place: Mits Miyata**

There once was a chicken who liked hockey  
Who played like a rooster-gone-gauky.

"I found out too late

That I'm not built to skate.

I think that I will now be a jockey."

##### **Third place: Mits Miyata**

There once was a chicken from New West  
Who wanted to be known as the best.

"I have nice thighs

That will go well with fries

And coleslaw will go well with my breast"

#### **"HOW TO PLANT YOUR GARDEN":**

(forwarded by Jean List)

First, you come to the garden alone,

While the dew is still on the roses...

**FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING,**

Plant three rows of peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

No garden is without turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

To conclude our garden must have thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow. Not bad, huh?!



