

THE NEW WESTMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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CLUB MEETING CALENDAR:

OCTOBER MEETING: Tonight, Tues, Oct 10th, 7:45pm. Our **ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION!** Hopefully no need to remind you that this is an evening for members only—no drop-in guests. Also no memberships will be sold this evening. We hope that you all find a treasure tonight. For those of you who have contributed items, you already have the treasure of freed-up space in your homes. Many thanks for the contributions. Tonight is also the *deadline for entering the photo and container contests (enter at the podium)*. Christmas Dinner tickets are on sale (\$10 members, \$15 first guest, \$25 additional guests) at the treasurer's table. There is no free table tonight. Nor will there be a designated refreshment time—beverages and goodies will be in the kitchen available from grazing throughout the meeting. Please take care not to spill anything onto the auction items. *Enjoy the evening!*

NOVEMBER MEETING: Tues, Nov 14th, 7:45pm. Our speaker on vegetables is ARZEEMA HAMIR. We welcome her return to the club. Her last visit garnered raves. Part of her presentation will be power-point. We do have the loan of a digital projector but wouldn't mind if a knowledgeable member would come forward to act as her assistant during the evening. November is also the month of the club's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Hopefully this will be the traditional quick affair. We will be voting (or acclaiming) the 2007 NWHS executive. Also there will be motion votes on the annual speaker budget and some changes to the constitution. These upcoming motions are explained elsewhere in the newsletter. **CONTAINER CONTEST JUDGING:** The entries will be posted on the wall and each person in attendance will have a ballot to vote for the container which they consider the best.

DECEMBER MEETING: Tues, Dec 12th. At Centennial Lodge as with all our meetings. **OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER & SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS.** Because of a major part of this event is the buffet dinner (A&F Caterers), all in attendance must purchase tickets in advance. Ticket prices: \$10 for members, \$15 for a member's first guest, \$25 for each additional guest of a member. We give thanks to our plant sale profits to enable us to subsidize the ticket prices. *There will be absolutely no tickets sold at the door!!!!* Purchase early, through the treasurer, Mary, at the meetings or through Audrey at non-meeting times. There is an absolute maximum of 120 tickets (just can't fit anymore into the room!). Last year we sold out before the November meeting, so purchase yours early. We will have a waiting list. 5pm, Dec 1st is the deadline to purchase tickets or to get a refund from the club if you find you have a time clash. Please ask about a refund even after that date. We will probably be able to use your returned ticket. If we can sell your ticket to another, you will be refunded your purchase money. Need to say, members have enjoyed the format of the seasonal celebrations. We will be continuing on the same lines as in past years with obviously a downscaling on the awards presentations. Instead of the extensive Parlour Show awards, we will be presenting envelopes only to the winners of the Photo and Container Contests. Audrey will be creating another very trivial Christmas trivia quiz. The elves will be creating the prizes for the extraordinary Christmas raffle starting Nov 20th. All raffle proceeds will be donated to a local charity. We have decided against the entertainment due to space restrictions.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: by

Audrey

Ah, tomorrow I rest....What a busy month! Queensborough Fair was "awesome"—and so was the participation by club members. I love receiving accolades on behalf of your creative work. Great displays! Our booth was super. Next month we will have a photo display of the fair. What a difference in being on the fair organizing committee as opposed to being in charge of the NWHS input. Busy! For those who somehow have missed the message that I was in charge of the competitions—I found it to be a full day job. It sure was great having a efficient group to help process the entries. (Many, many thanks) What a lot of entries: 225!!! 3-4 times the number from last year. Apologies for taking so long to finish the judging. It was overwhelming. Tomorrow night at the fair evaluation meeting, we will be discussing how to "get it done faster". Thinking forward to next year: Do you have suggestions for categories?

NWHS HAS WINNERS:

Collections: 1st: Audrey Barnes

Scrapbook Page: 2nd: Brenda Burtnick

Needlework: Sweep by Bev Gatto

Quilting: 2nd & 3rd: Rita Solkin

Knitting: 1st: Erika d'Este

Sketching: 3rd: Merril Hall

Limerick: 1st: Patti Kemp

Cookies & Bars: 3rd: Silina Nakatsu

Single Bloom (mixed) 1st & 3rd: Debra Halbig; 2nd: Silina Nakatsu

Single Bloom (dahlia): 1st & 3rd: Lori Jenvey; two 2nd's to Jan Potter

Eggplant: 3rd: Audrey Barnes

Tomatoes: 1st: Audrey Barnes; tie for 3rd: Jan Potter & Julia Goulden

Carrots: 1st: Jan Potter; 2nd: Debra Halbig

"Pot of Hens & Chicks": 1st: Sheila Wansink; 2nd: Audrey Barnes; 3rd: Julia Goulden

"Just Add Chicken": 1st: Linda Turnbull; 2nd & 3rd: Debra Halbig

"Feathered Fantasy": 1st: Audrey Barnes; 3rd: Brenda Burtnick

"Seeds of September": 1st: Ellen Berg; 2nd: Audrey Barnes; 3rd: Debra Halbig

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.

September has been a wonderful month for the harvesting of summer crops and the growing of fall and winter veges. The time to harvest squash and pumpkin is after the first light frost. Leave out on a sunny day after picking to let the skins firm up & dry out before storing. Wipe bleach over the whole squash (it decreases rot) to extend the life for a few months. Parsnips benefit from frost—they taste sweeter. They can be left in the ground until you need them, as they are a very hardy vegetable.

If you have a good well-drained planting bed, now is the time to sow the broad beans and garlic. They then have time to establish a good root system before the winter sets in.

Garlic grows best in rich, well-drained soil with plenty of organic matter. Applying soybean meal is an ideal fertilizer for overwintering garlic because the breakdown rate of soymeal protein into nitrogen and other nutrients is temperature dependent. The warmer the temperature, the more nutrients are released. Soymeal applied in the fall gets into the root zone and then lies in wait during the cold winter, ready to release nutrients as the soil warms up in the spring—right at the time most of the garlic stalk growth takes place. Sow unpeeled cloves 1 to 2 inches deep and 8 inches apart. A good idea is to mulch soon after planting and weed. Remove the tops, or scapes, from the stems of hard-neck garlic. Harvest the bulbs when 40% of the leaves have died back. Cure bulbs inside, in a cool ventilated area, away from the sun.

If anybody is interested: Soft-neck types of garlic are best for braiding because the leafy stalks remain pliable. Most commercial garlics are soft-neck which keep longer than hard-necks. Hard-neck types tend to have a fuller flavor than soft-necks because they are closer to wild garlic. Along with leafy stalks, hard-necks develop a stiff stem at their core. The central stem ends in a culicue, topped by a false seed head called a scape. When they appear in the spring break them off. Removing the scapes redirects the plant’s energy into bulb formation, resulting in larger bulbs with enhanced storage qualities. If you get the scape before they curl, it provides garlic lovers with a taste of the coming harvest, whether diced & stir fried, added to salads, grilled whole or used as a garnish. Soft-necks tend to mature a week or so before hard-necks. If left in the ground too long, the over-mature bulbs can split open, leaving them susceptible to molds and dehydration. Hard-necks keep from 3 to 6 months. Home-grown is seductive. Once you sample it, you may never again be able to make do with the mass produced commercial varieties and at this point I don’t think I could ever not grow garlic. And it is so beneficial to your health!

GardenWorks Appreciation Day: Thursday, Oct 19th.

CLUB OUTINGS: Things are tapering down for the year, after the big push for Queensborough Fair and clearing our homes of un-wanted items for the Silent Auction, we’re taking a respite.

BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUB’S MEETING: Sat, Oct 21st. The deadline for pre-registration has long past—meaning it will cost \$25 instead of \$20 to attend. If you are interested, speak to Audrey tonight.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SESSIONS: Over the next month, a metamorphoses takes place in Audrey’s basement. The Silent Auction items will be history. The kayak will rise to the ceiling, Christmas lights will be moved to the much-used dining room for sorting & checking *and the Christmas craft items will be unpacked and organized ready for the annual arrival of the Elves!* The craft sessions start on Nov 20th and the basement will be available for the next three weeks. Morning, afternoon and evening sessions will be available at the times which members state they will want to participate. At the Nov meeting, there will be a big calendar for you to sign-up. Please be prepared to write down when you *think* you might want to craft—just put your desired hours on the day. Audrey will confirm your attendance at about dinner time the evening before the date you signed up. As with the plant sale preparation, there is a good chance that for the times at which nobody has signed up, the basement will be closed. Audrey needs to do such mundane things as buying grub—and yes, occasionally (tho’ seldom), she does do housework! If you enjoy creating but have less of an desire to own what you make, these crafts sessions are for you. Great way to meet other members. Just a reminder, with Audrey’s sensitivity to fragrance we strive to keep the sessions as fragrance-free as possible.

Crafting supplies: The club has a huge storehouse of stuff. Much of it thanks to the generosity of members who have donated Christmasy items (just leave it on the back kitchen porch). We are not insulted if you return prizes won at previous Christmas raffles. Use it one year, donate it back the next year! We do purchase some items. But a lot of the stuff is collected from gardens (cones, seedheads, interesting branches). This is especially true for the last 4 days of crafting when we work with fresh materials. Our dependence on members for fresh materials is increasing each year as many of the empty lots we used to forage are now built upon. The Canada Pool recycling depot continues to be a handy source. What can you expect to find when you come to craft?—a huge variety and amount of stuff!!! Glue guns & sticks, wire, wreath forms, cones, baskets, fake greenery, Christmas bables, ornaments and picks, beautiful ribbon, oasis & sahara, Styrofoam form, some idea books—the list goes on. It is actually a good idea to visit for a look before you actually come to sit down and craft. It can take an hour to just investigate it all. Great fun!

SEARCHING FOR THE 2007 NWHS

EXECUTIVE: WILL YOU BE ON IT????

November is the month in which the next year's executive is selected—we have even had elections in the recent past!! This year marks the first in many in which several current members are stepping down. Other members are considering shifts in areas of responsibilities. All executive positions except President and Vice-President (which are 2 year terms) are open. Lots of opportunity for you members who want to notch up your involvement within the club. The new executive will take over early January 2007. It does involve a degree of time commitment (the main reason why current members are retiring from office). Executive members are expected to attend all general and executive meetings. That is not always possible but is desirable. The executive meetings are normally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month with each executive taking turns in hosting. Executive meetings are quite informal; discussion is stressed. It is expected for each executive to take on special responsibilities i.e. to head a committee. For some, this is explicit with their titles. The executive runs the club—with feedback from members. It is they who decide what the club does. It is also they who physically lead the club in activities i.e. the responsibility of being on the executive does not end with attendance at meetings—it is BEING INVOLVED! What do you get out of being on executive?? First, your voice is heard my louder than if a general member (it is expected of you!). But the main thing is the thrill of working together with others to pull off something great—*that is our club!* NWHS is a great club and will continue to be so, and evolve into something even better, with the cohesive efforts of the executive. There are few thrills to match the pride of steering our club.

THE POSITIONS OPEN: For the treasurer, secretary & show chairperson positions, current executive have expressed interest. Lots of room for new blood as a member-at-large.

Treasurer: Collects & deposits money; keeps record of all transactions and prepares financial statement; maintains roster; in charge of name tags. Should have previous executive experience.

Secretary: Keeps minutes of all executive & general meetings

Show Chairperson: In charge of all in-club activities in which members show or display exhibits

Members-at-Large: (5 positions) Participate in all discussions and votes. An excellent position at which to join the executive to “learn the ropes”. Areas of responsibility are of their choosing.

WANT TO PARTICIPATE BUT DON'T WANT TO ATTEND ALL THOSE MEETINGS??

Sounds good! Just come forward when something is mentioned that you are interested in—or if you have a great new idea. Neither our incoming web-master nor meeting emailer will be on the new executive.

VOTES AT THE AGM: Besides a possible vote for the 2007 executive 5 additional motions will be voted on. Please read the following descriptions. If you have any questions, please speak to any executive member for a further explanation. It would be great if discussion could be done before the November meeting and the votes quickly executed.

ANNUAL SPEAKER BUDGET: As we have done in the last several years, next month we will be voting on a speaker budget for the whole of next year. **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. Normally, any individual club expenditure of over \$250 must be voted on by the membership. By giving the speaker coordinator, a total year budget to play with, it enables her to sign up a “most desired” speaker on the spot rather than having a month or two lag time after which the speaker may no longer be available. This will enable her to balance expensive speakers with those less costly.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION:

PARLOUR SHOW RELATED MOTIONS:

Bylaw 19: Currently states: “The executive of the society shall be the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, parlour show secretary plus up to five (5) members at large.

MOTION: Change the wording of bylaw 19 by replacing “parlour show secretary” with “show chairperson”.

Bylaw 40: Currently this bylaw states, in detail, how the Parlow Show Secretary should run the Parlour show. It is proposed that this whole bylaw be deleted and replaced by a much more general description of the show chairperson's duties which does not exempt future changes to the Club Show and Bring-to-Share activities. It would accommodate return to the former Parlour Show format if that was deemed desirable.

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

REVIEW OF OUR FINANCIAL REPORT MOTIONS:

Annually we get our books and financial statement “reviewed” by a certified chartered accountant to make sure all is correct and honest. We do not get them “audited” which is an extremely expensive procedure. These proposed changes in wording reflect the protocol.

Bylaw 43: Currently 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.”

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.”

MOTION: Change the wording of bylaw 44 by replacing the word “audited” with “reviewed”.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: a review of last

month's presentation: DIANNE GAINES, from Van Noort Bulbs, did not disappoint us. A great presentation on the ins & outs of getting the most from your fall planting, spring flowering bulbs. Common thought through our minds when she was demonstrating planting a container "You can do that!?!". Thanks Dianne. Van Noort is a wholesale distributor. Their bulbs are available at most good garden centres.

NOT ORGANIZED CLUB OUTINGS BUT GREAT IDEAS:

UBC Apple Festival: Sat–Sun Oct 14-15, 11am-4pm.

Over 50 varieties to taste & buy plus many varieties of trees for sale. Attend early to avoid disappointment. Try your hand at the "Longest Peel" contest.

Poco Garden Clubs presents Brian Minter: Tues, Oct 17; 7:30pm. In Port Coquitlam at Trinity United Church, 2211 Prairie Ave (at Shaughnessy). Admission by donation. Need a fall boost in your gardening enthusiasm, this is the event for you! For further information, contact Marlene Beach (604-461-3020) or Wendy Koeppen (604-469-0615)

Dart's Hill Garden Park Open House: Sat, Oct 21, 10-4.

Fantastic place at any time but in autumn color—unbelievable! Info: 604-598-5767

Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show & Sale: Sat (9 to 5) & Sun (9 to 4), Oct 28-29. West Langley Community Hall, 9309-208 St., Langley. Admission \$6 (less \$1 with your membership card or with coupon from website). While officially it is a "No Theme" show, it is being advertised as "Orchids—The Ultimate House Plant". Have you tried orchids yet? These beauties will give you year-round pleasure. Website: www.orchidbc.ca

THE SKETCHING GROUP:

A note from Merrill Hall reflects on why the group was formed. She recently wrote:

"I was pleased to participate in the Sketching Group which was developed through the garden club this past summer. As gardeners, we all have the love of Nature and artistic talent. For me, although I didn't make it out to that many sessions, it did inspire me to bring my sketch pad out more often. On a trip to the Sunshine Coast, my mom, my daughter and I all made a point of enjoying some sketching time on the beaches. Thank you." One of Merrill's beach sketches earned her a third place ribbon at the Queensborough Fair. *We are looking for a keen body to head up organizing the sketching outings for 2007. Interested?*

EMAIL NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS: Get on the list, keep the list up-dated by telling Lesley Wood if you would like to get the email or have an address change. There will be only one more announcement this year. None for December as all in attendance will have purchased a ticket.

THIS 'N' THAT:

■Wow!! 10 New Members last month. Definitely a record for October! A royal welcome to BOB BARTON & MICHELINE IPPERSIEL, ALANA BOYLE, KAREN CORCIONE, MONICA EYRE, JUDY KNIGHT, CONNIE McCLINTON, PAT McRAE-ALLEN, MARY RUSSELL & ANNETTE TIPPER. You caught us unprepared!! Sorry about the shortage in membership cards in October. Pick yours up at the treasurer's table tonight. We hope you wear your name-tags with pride.

■CLAUDE LE DOUX thanks the members who donated to the "New Westminster Parks Greenhouse Replacement Fund". He truly appreciates your support for this worthwhile project. When being told that many thought the \$100 minimum was rather steep, he said that came from the finance department. He would insure tax receipts for any amount \$25 and over. See Audrey regarding how to donate.

■Thinking of getting a HAMSTER FOR A PET? Talk with Judy Knight (604-778-836-9749). She has a lead on a whole bunch (no, it is not the prodigy of 2 supposed-to-be-females). Miscellaneous types. Free cages also a possibility. Give a hamster a good home!

■Silina Nakatsu (604-521-7351) has a 20 sq ft FREE FREEZER (you pick-up). Sounds ideal for the garage or covered outdoor space. Talk with her tonight or give her a call. Also, an update on the condition of Silina's backyard (remember, in July, her neighbour's huge poplar cut a swath through her landscaping on its way to a horizontal position)—the landscaper is supposed to arrive with the replacement vegetation today. The question is: will he or won't he???

■The nominations are in for our DONATIONS COMMITTEE to evaluate. Many thanks to the members who took the time to present the projects for consideration. Carole Forsythe is getting her team together to discuss the nominations. Would you like to get on the committee? Talk with Carole tonight or give her a call (604-515-1927)

■Audrey Barnes still has some BULBS FOR SALE, left over from the club booth at the Queensborough Fair. Are you interested in Queen of the Night (almost black), Princess Irene (Orange with purple stripe) or red Rococo Parrot Tulips. \$3 for pkg of 6. She has samples tonight.

■NWHS GIFT CERTIFICATES: the gift for the person who has everything: a certificate for a 2007 club membership. See Mary at the treasurer's table. \$10 of course.

■Now that we have mentioned 2 items for sale, it is a good time to review the newsletter policy regarding "FOR SALE ADS". The bulbs and gift certificates are for sale by the club. We will not print normal "for sale" ads. Members are invited to post a notice on the bulletin board if they are selling something.

■SEED EXCHANGE: Please drop off your collected seeds at Audrey's (sheltered back kitchen porch) at anytime and they will be passed on. The collection box this evening is at the podium.

