

THE NEW WESTMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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CLUB MEETING CALENDAR:

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Tonight, Tues, Sept 12, DIANNE GAINES, of Van Noort Bulbs, on 'BEAUTIFUL BULBS". Not only will Dianne be showing us the latest bulbs and how to get the most from our bulbs but she will be selling the enticing items as well! Tonight is also our Fall "Bring to Share". Hopefully there will be lots of interesting exhibits and ideas on display.

OCTOBER MEETING: Tues, Oct 10th, 7:45pm. Our **ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION!** *Members only for this meeting—no drop-in guests. No memberships sold this night.* Many members count the auction night at the top of their "must not miss" club meetings. The adage "what is one person's junk is another's treasure" is the basis of an enjoyable evening. If you are cleaning house (or attic, or basement, or shed...) it is a great way to get rid of stuff guilt free. If you are looking for deals: boy, do we have the bargains for you!! Huge range of items. Over the past few years, we have found that "pre-processing" (make up bidding slips and organize with respect where they will go in the room) items makes it a much more enjoyable evening for everyone. We strongly recommend that you drop off your goods to Audrey's (back kitchen porch, not carport)—especially if you are donating a large number of items. If you have determined the minimum bid you would like to put on something, tell Audrey the amount. Many items are just listed at the 25¢ starting bid. *If you are donating a quality item for which you have a firm minimum, we will not lower its minimum during the auction. You can retain ownership if no one bids.* The deadline to drop off items at Audrey's will be Oct 3rd, one week before the auction, as the preprocessing is quite time-intensive. (Want to help? Talk with Audrey.) All pre-processed items will be set up early on the meeting day—hopefully starting about 1pm. The procedure for Auction Night is on the next page.

At this meeting, all entries for the photo contest and container contest are to be submitted. No later!!!

NOVEMBER MEETING: Tues, Nov 14th, 7:45pm. Speaker is to be confirmed—we are looking for someone to talk on vegetables. This is also the evening of our Annual General Meeting which is usually a pretty brief affair: election of the 2007 executive; vote on the 2007 speaker budget; vote on constitution changes (primarily changes regarding the position of Parlour Show Secretary). Container contest entries will be on display and all in attendance will vote.

DECEMBER MEETING: Tues, Dec 12th. At Centennial Lodge as with all our meetings. **OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER & SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS.** This night starts early—6pm (or earlier if you want to sit with a group!), buffet opens at 6:30. Tickets must be purchased for the catered buffet dinner (A&F Caterers again). \$10 per member, \$15 for a member's first guest and \$25 for additional members. It sells out! We are limited to 120 seats. Tickets will be on sale at the Oct and Nov meetings and up to 5pm, Dec 1st through Audrey if there are any left. If you buy and then have a time clash, you also have up to Dec 1st to get a refund. If there is a waiting list—perhaps you can get your money back even after that date. Besides the great feast, the evening will also feature the most-extraordinary Christmas raffle, an extremely trivial Christmas trivia quiz, very quick awards (photo & container contest) and, rumor has it, that perhaps entertainment.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: by

Audrey

First, my apologies for printing the wrong date for Valleybrooke Open House in last month's newsletter. Carole was able to alert all who signed up of the mistake and thankfully, for most, the change in date was OK. It shows the importance of signing up if interested in an outing.

How fast the year has gone! I haven't done a quarter of what I had hoped to accomplish and now it is time to look toward 2007! Yikes! This is the month that we actively search out you in the membership who would like to be on the club executive:

Nominations for the 2007 executive are now open! Although most of the current executive have indicated that they would like to return, all positions, but President and Vice-President which are 2-year terms, are up for grabs: Secretary, Treasurer, Show Chairperson (there will be a vote to change Parlour Show Secretary to this new title) and 5 positions of Member-at-Large. Lori Jenvey and Lesley Wood are definitely stepping down. They have sadly succumbed to time pressures of family and work. They will be missed but definitely not forgotten—especially when an extra hand is needed! To be on executive is quite exciting but hard work and time commitment is expected. You will be expected to attend 2 meetings per month (general & executive) and probably head up a committee. It is basically this group that runs the club although if you want to participate and not be on executive all you need to do is step forward. For example, our new webmaster (to replace Lori) will not be on executive. Anyone want to take over the email notifications after Christmas??

GERDA SWAN: The newer members of the club may not know Gerda but the long term members will definitely be saddened by news that she passed away on August 14th. Bill & Gerda were extremely active members of the club even after they moved to Langley. She was a life member having belonged to NWSH since the mid-50's. She lived to be 95 years old and died just short of her and Bill's 70th Anniversary. Our condolences to Bill.

THE SILENT AUCTION: how it works:

1. *Arrive early* if you have items to set out, obtain a bidding slip (at the treasurer's table) for each item and put in the minimum bid. This bid is put on the first line at the top of the slip, to the right of "starting bid". The lowest minimum bid at the start of the evening is 25¢. Be relatively explicit with your item description. It very likely that there will be similar items. Place each item with similar items on the tables. There will be experienced club members to help you. After your items are done, proceed as in step 2. Bidding slips are also available at the head table tonight.
2. If you are not bringing auction items, you can immediately obtain your personal bidding number from the treasurer's table. Roy will write your number on the master sheet and give you a post-it with the number on it. (Every year it seems someone starts bidding with another's number!)
3. You can immediately start bidding on any item that has been set out with a bidding slip. On the line below the last bid, put your personal bidder number on the left hand side and on the right hand side put your bid. If you are the first bidder for an item, your bid can be the same as the minimum bid. If someone else has already placed a bid, your bid must raise the minimum by 5¢ or by a multiple of 5¢.
4. Circulate around the room, keeping an eye on those items you are very interested in. You may want to bid again.
5. About half way through the auction, if there are items for which nobody has bid, the minimum bid may be reduced.
6. A 5 minute warning will be issued before the auction will end.
7. When Audrey calls "end of auction" (might get a whistle this year!), everyone is to exit the auction areas. There will be scrutinizers to make sure nobody sneaks in a late bid. But really folks, if you really want something, why not try putting in an early high bid to get it. Hopefully this year there will be no arguments.
8. A group of assigned members will quickly go through the tables, highlighting all of the winning bidder numbers and their bid amounts. No one is to go to the tables until the highlighting is finished and Audrey gives the OK to collect the items you won. There should be boxes under the tables or in the foyer.
9. Gather your items with the slips and head to a member who is tallying. You go to the cashier only after your slips have been checked and tallied.
10. At the cashier, please hand over the bidding slips with your money (Small bills and change is most welcome, a personal cheque already made out for the total is a delight.)
11. After the auction has finished, if you see something for which nobody bid, you can purchase it for the minimum. Any items for which someone bid but did not collect, will be collected and the person called—probably within the next week.
12. All left-over items will be given to charity.

CLUB OUTINGS:

QUEENSBOROUGH'S URBAN FARMER'S FALL FAIR:

Sunday, Sept 24th, Queensborough Community Centre, 10am to 4pm. The theme is "chickens". Great family entertainment and, as the club is very involved in the fair, there is a multitude of ways you can participate.

1. Bring your family to the fair. Bring a donation to Plant A Row, Grow a Row. We will be collecting them at our display.
2. Enter the competitions. All NWHS members will have any competition entry fees reimbursed. Audrey is even willing to take your non-perishable entries to the site.
3. Donate or loan display materials for the Fair and the Club display. We need cornstalks!—and any other fall-colored vegetation you have. Scarecrows, interesting farm equipment (small scale), produce (will return or donate to Plant a Row). Of course, "chickeny" props.
4. Help transport stuff to fair site on Saturday morning.
5. Help set up the club's display on Saturday morning.
6. Help create entrance & stage displays on Saturday.
7. Help Audrey process the competitions on Sunday morning—receive the entries, make out exhibit tags, set-up the exhibits.
8. Help remove all display materials from the site after the fair.

Endless opportunities to be involved and have fun. Sign-up sheets for all at the head table. Many thanks.

BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS MEETING: Saturday, Oct 21st. PNE Boardroom. Doors open 8am. Draw (extremely good prizes!!!) finishes the day at 2:00pm. Speakers: Scott Back of BC Parks Service on Vietnam's Biodiversity and Conservation Projects within that country and Heide Hermary from the Society for Organic Urban Land Care on the principles and practices of organic gardening. \$20 admission fee includes hot buffet lunch and morning refreshments. Register with payment tonight through Audrey (in Mary's absence). Deadline to register is Monday Sept 25th at 5pm with Carole Forysthe. This date is quite early because their cut-off date for us to submit the money and names is quite early.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SESSIONS: For about the 3 weeks prior our Christmas Party, members meet in Audrey's basement creating raffle prizes. This year, the sessions will be starting on Nov 20th. Members are invited to come over during the day or the evenings (finishing at a daily close-down of 9pm). There will be a calendar for you to sign up so Audrey can determine which days she will have available to get grub in and, who knows, perhaps indulge in such mundane activities as housework. We have a huge store-house of materials—cones, baskets, wreath forms, glue guns, glue, wire, fake greenery, Christmas babbles, ribbon, oasis & sahara and other stuff. We do purchase some materials but are very open to donations of Christmassy materials. If you have any tired decorations, or perhaps ones you are just tired of, they can be incorporated into raffle prizes. Just drop them off at Audrey's back kitchen door where it is relatively sheltered. Our creations are one of a kind. If you like doing crafts, these will be the outings for you. We hold off using fresh materials to about the last 4 days before the party.

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

We have had an exceptional growing season so far for green beans, raspberries, broccoli and practically all spring sowed vegetables. There is always exceptions caused mainly to being too hot and lack of water. This is a good time to freeze and store beans, sweet corn (Wait until it is at milk stage—when you squeeze the kernels milky juice comes out. You should have it into the freezer within one hour of picking.) tomatoes, carrots and herbs. Hopefully the summer will be long enough for the tomatoes to ripen on the vines. But if not, they will have to be picked by the end of this month and ripened indoors. If you want to ripen tomatoes quickly, place them in a paper bag with an over-ripe apple. Fold the top of the bag over loosely. The gas off the over-ripe fruit encourages the tomatoes to ripen. Winter squash should be left on the vines until the first frost and then prepared for storage by washing the surface with dilute bleach and then stored in a cool place. Potatoes can be harvested whenever their size warrants it. If you are going to store them for later, it is better to leave them in the ground until the vines are dead. There is still time to plant broccoli & cabbage for early spring production. Swiss chard and density lettuce can be sown now. Make sure the ground is moist enough because we have had a long dry spell in August. Give them a good start by fertilizing with half strength fish fertilizer or 20-20-20. Onion sets can go in anytime now until the end of November for early summer harvest. According to Brian Minter, garlic should be planted Sept 19th. I will be planting it up to the end of the month. I planted it during Sept last year and got a very good crop—harvested at the beginning of July.

Happy gardening everybody.

GardenWorks Appreciation Day: Thursday, Sept 21st.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS TO RECEIVE

NWHS MONEY: As of the moment neither Carole Forsythe nor Audrey Barnes has received any nominations to be forwarded to the club’s Donation Committee for evaluation as possible recipients of part or all of the \$1000 donation budget for this year. The deadline is Sept 30th. Think we should give a high school scholarship again? It must be nominated. Both Carole & Audrey have nomination forms. This form may look complicated but it really isn’t—it is also the draft form and any feedback as to how it should be changed would be welcome. It basically asks the nominator (who should be relatively familiar with the nominee) to do a bit of basic research before it is submitted. Supply contact information and such. Nominations in the following categories are welcome: gardening/horticultural education; horticultural research; native plant habitat restoration; and gardening-related programs that will benefit the community or a needy segment of the community. Again, the deadline for submitting nominations is Sept 30th.

PHOTO & CONTAINER CONTESTS: Judging from the number of cameras in evidence on our garden tour, we should have some good entries this year. I have seen some of those images—impressive! Get prints done and submit them at the October meeting. Since this is also the Silent Auction night (and a complete upheaval regarding room organization) submissions will probably be taken near the podium. *To enter the photo contest, get a exhibitor number (not your silent auction number) to put on the back of your photos (no names please). Select your 3 best photos for each category. There will be envelopes for each category. For the container contest, again do not write on the photos. Put your name on the plant list. There will be a stack of envelopes. Just put your photos and the list in an envelope, a separate one for each entry*

PHOTO CONTEST:

Categories:

1. Colour in the garden—must be your own garden
2. Creatures enjoying the garden—domestic or wild. Must be living. Does not include human creatures. Does not need to be own garden.
3. Overall or partial view of a “non-commercial” (i.e. home garden)—does not need to be own garden.

Rules: Open to members only; photo must have been taken by entering member and after Oct 1, 2005. Limit of 3 photos per category for each member. Photos no larger than 5” x 7” or have the smallest dimension 5” or less.

Prizes: 3 winners selected for each category: 1st gets \$10 cash, 2nd \$5 and 3rd \$3. Judging is done by a qualified judge.

CONTAINER CONTEST:

Rules: Open to members only. Each member can enter up to 3 containers or hanging baskets. Each entry must be a distinct entity e.g. not a group of containers, not a raised bed. The containers must have been created by the member. For each entry, submit up to 3 photos showing the container at its best. Not all photos need be taken at the same time—they may show the container in different seasons or at different states of development. The container may be old but the photos must have been taken between Oct 1, 2005 & the present. Photo size as with photo contest—no photo with its smallest dimension greater than 5” please.

Prize: The winner receives a gift certificate for a free 2007 NWHS membership. Judging is done by popular choice during the November meeting when all the entries will be posted. Judging criteria: overall effect; colour combination; plant form/shape; suitability of plants for the container; creativeness.

NEW QUEEN’S PARK GREENHOUSE:

Yep, it’s being built as we meet—a new greenhouse at the complex in the park! It will drastically streamline how their space works. But as you know, being built now means construction costs are escalating like the rate of inflation in Brazil! Daily Claude is being asked to cut out another feature. Yes, we are talking about Claude le Doux, the fellow that gives 400% effort in everything he does, the fellow who stepped in to speak to our club with a 2 hr notice. **Claude needs HELP! You can help!** Donate to the “New Westminster Parks Greenhouse Replacement Fund” and get an income tax receipt. The powers that be, suggest an \$100 minimum donation. Ask Audrey how.

NOT ORGANIZED CLUB OUTINGS BUT GREAT IDEAS:

Riverview TreeFest: Sept 17, noon to 5, Riverview Hospital Grounds, 2601 Lougheed Hwy. A fun-filled day for the whole family includes guided walks through this remarkable site and a great tree sale. More details: www.rhcs.citysoup.ca

CanWest Hort Show, Wed & Thur, Sept 20 & 21, 10:30 to 6pm each day, Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre. This is the big trade show for the horticulture & landscaping industry. You can't buy things (which is a blessing!) but you can drool over the latest introductions. Too late to pre-register but you can pay at the door: \$15.

Seminars at Amsterdam Nursery: Mike Lascelle has pulled all the stops when lining up personnel to give seminars at Amsterdam's 1st Annual Fall Design School "Designing the West Coast Garden" Pre-registration is required: phone 604-465-6614 or check the website www.amsterdamgreenhouses.com for details. \$10 per session includes a \$10 coupon if you purchase \$50. Space is limited. Check bulletin board for details.

Sept 16: Reinier van de Poll & Ayuko Inoue

Sept 23: Ben Kibinowa & Michael Lascelle

Sept 30: Ruth Olde & David Tarrant

Oct 7: Clare Phillips (2 sessions)

Oct 14: Claude Le Doux & George and Lea Feddes

If you do attend any seminars, Carole & Audrey would be delighted with feedback such as "Must get...to the club"

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)

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

Outdoor Watercolour Painting: Sept 20-Oct 25 (6 Wednesdays) 4:30-6:30pm. Semiahmoo Secondary, Whiterock. \$69. To register, call 604-531-1515. Cite course number Wr-1352701. See bulletin board for further details.

SEED EXCHANGE: HELP! HELP!

Your seed bank is at an all-time low!

Please take a couple of minutes to collect any seed heads you may have (No need to extract the seeds themselves—Buff can do that.) Just make sure the heads are mature (Immature seeds produce inferior seedlings, or no seedlings at all.), and dry (Don't store in plastic, please—it invites mold.). Stick the seeds or seed heads in paper envelopes or paper bags; label the bags with whatever info you can provide—eg. Species, variety, height, colour, time of bloom, etc plus your name—put them in the seed donation box, and voila!, next month they'll be packaged and ready to go.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: a review of last month's presentation: Last month, DR. ALAN REID, of GardenWorks" gave a great presentation on "SOIL". The basic dirt on the topic is what makes soil nutritious is the microbial activity happening within the soil. And a basic requirement for such activity is the incorporation of oxygen within the soil. Also, microbes need carbon compounds such as organic matter to thrive. When you add organic matter, do not just top-dress, work it into the soil so you are adding the necessary oxygen as well. The best time to transplant is when microbial activity is at its highest and thus more nutrients are available to the plants. Alan Reid hangs out at GardenWorks Lougheed.

THIS 'N' THAT:

■ You are probably all aware the club is perpetually asking members to drop off empty (unwashed) plant pots for us to stock-pile for next year's sale. What a surprise to get a call from a nursery! Marianne Ramsey (a past club member) now works at **Jones Nursery** at 16060 Westminster Highway (near No. 7 Road). Would we be interested in in square 1 litre pots? YES! That is one size we always run out of. Well, not for at least a year—I came home with a carload! The nursery plans to expand into the area in which the pots were stored and their automatic potting machines do not work well with that size. Now, I hadn't been to Jones Nursery since before the retail and wholesale locations were combined—just haven't skulked in that area. Although Marianne said they didn't specialize in the unusual but catered more to the landscaping trade, I did come home with 4 unusual treasures. If you are looking for a tree, especially a big one, I would definitely check out Jones. Even if you are not in a tree hunt, check them out. Yes, they do give 10% off on presentation of your membership card.

■ How the network works! About a week and half ago, a neighbour of Marianne Ramsey phones me because she heard we could use pots. She dropped over and we talked a bit. Another avid gardener—but one who now finds that she is finding upkeep of her West End garden is just too time consuming now that she & her husband are spending so much time on their boat. I told her I would put feelers out to see if there are any club members who would like to get their hands dirty in helping. Do you miss that garden that you used to have and have the urge to pull weeds and prune? Tell me and I will pass your name onto Yohanda. Sounds like a nice garden—flowers, herbs. You can discuss possible trade-off for your time with her.

■ The **sketching group** has discontinued its scheduled outings for 2006—it plans to start earlier next year. Willing to help organize the group? Speak with Audrey.

■ Yep, this is the regular email announcement: If you receive our **email meeting notification list**, you most definitely would like to keep on the list. Please alert Lesley of any changes to your address by simply emailing her

