

# THE NEW WESTMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Club address: Suite 392, 104—1015 Columbia St., New Westminister, V3M 6V3

[www.newwesthortsociety.org](http://www.newwesthortsociety.org)

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December 2007

## **CLUB MEETING CALENDAR:**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY & FESTIVITIES:** Tonight, we feast and enjoy good friendships within the club. The buffet will be running from 6:30 to 7:30. If you arrive early, why not check out the excellent Craft Fair at the Arts Council next door. Or, purchase your raffle tickets or work on the quiz or admire the photographic efforts of your fellow club members.

**The Lower Mainland Purpose Society:** NWHS has selected this New Westminister-based charity to be the recipient of the Christmas raffle proceeds. We are designating the funds to its Christmas hamper program. The Purpose Society is an effective non-profit group that focuses on delivering a continuum of social, health, educational and recreational services for individuals, youth and families who are subject to personal and/or societal distress, marginalization and alienation. Check out its website: [www.purposesociety.org](http://www.purposesociety.org).

**JANUARY MEETING: Yes, Virginia, There is a Meeting in January.** In the spirit of New Year's resolutions, members are invited to a special meeting to share their thoughts on the club's future over mocktails and hors d'oeuvres. We'll break into small groups to discuss the club's operations, benefits, events, etc. Everything but the kitchen sink is up for discussion. Don't hold back! Your opinions and ideas matter to us. Is there a specific topic you'd like to see addressed?

Tues, Jan 22nd, 2008 (the *fourth* Tuesday)  
7:30 to 9:00 pm

Auditorium, New Westminister Public Library  
*RSVP by Sunday, Jan 20th with Carole Forsythe, 604-515-1927 or [carole.forsythe@shaw.ca](mailto:carole.forsythe@shaw.ca)*

## **RAFFLE WRAP-UP: by Sharon Seki**

Thank you everyone for making the raffle such a success! So many of you have faithfully bought tickets at every meeting! I hope each of you have won at least one prize this year. I'd also like to thank the following who have generously donated prizes to this year's raffle: Audrey Barnes, Brenda Burtnick, Dawn Dutrizac-Larose, Trudy Findlay, Carole Forsythe, Bev Gatto, Lesia Gojda, Julia Goulden, Micheline Ippersiel, Jean List, Candace McGuire, Silvana McNulty, Monica Mowat, Rudi Pinowski, Susan Posniak, Sharon Seki, Wynne Simmer, David Tamblin, Linda Turnbull, Fred Weins and Connie Wicklund. My apologies if I missed anyone. Sometimes, raffle prizes just mysteriously appear at the table. Some of you have asked where the proceeds of the raffle go. Well, the proceeds go towards offsetting the cost of club activities. Our club membership is only \$10; a bargain considering many clubs charge \$20 or more.

Well, until next year, that's a wrap!

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

As you all probably all know, I am delighted to step down as president. I enjoyed the many years but it is definitely time to move on (past time, you say?). Time for new blood and new ideas. Carole Forsythe and the team will supply both. I'll still be involved but in a much more limited capacity. I am also stepping down as newsletter editor. Anna Camporese is the in-coming head scribe. Expect lots of nice surprises.

My last words: Merry Christmas! Have a wonderful 2008!

## **NWHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

### **Your 2008 Executive:**

President: Carole Forsythe  
Vice President: Aldina Isbister  
Treasurer: Mary Barnard  
Secretary: Audrey Barnes  
Show Chairperson: Debra Halbig  
Member at Large:  
Anna Camporese  
Karen Low  
Monica Mowat  
Silina Nakatsu  
Sharon Seki

**Speaker Budget:** A budget of \$2000 approved for 2008.

**Plant Sale Budget:** A budget of \$3000 approved for 2008.

**Meeting Start Time:** After much discussion, it was voted that starting in Feb 2008, all general meetings will start at 7:30pm.

## **CULTURAL CORNER:**

The theme of the 2007 Queensborough Fair was "cows".

Here are the winning limericks:

### **First Place: by Ian Franck**

There once was a cow on Salter  
That always got out of her halter  
She caused so much sorrow  
All over Queensborough  
That she was finally sent to Gibraltar

### **Second Place: by Chris Brand**

There once was a cow black and white  
Who suffered a terrible fright  
Her milk, it went sour  
In less than an hour  
And her black spots went white overnight.

### **Third Place: by Patti Kemp (NWHS member)**

There once was a cow named Jolene  
Who wasn't quite what she seemed.  
In the frozen white north  
All she ever brought forth  
Was lots and lots of ice cream.

**PHOTO & CONTAINER CONTESTS:** Wow! What great participation this year! The number of entries in both contests far exceeded that of any past year. For the container contest, last month it was a pleasure to see what others have tried. More than one member was observed taking notes of the plants used. Thanks for sharing your ideas. For the photo contest, fantastic shots! You really set up the challenge for Steve Grover, our judge. Congratulations to all winners in both contests.

**PHOTO CONTEST JUDGE'S COMMENTS:** by Steve Grover, New Westminster Photographer (604-525-5661)

Choosing this year's selections from the 92 entries was enjoyable but not easy. The quality of images has improved steadily over the past 5 years that I have been judging your Photo Contest. I also noticed a lot of attention is being paid to getting the correct exposure and good compositions. I wonder if the increased use of digital cameras is part of the reason. While many of the submitted images were quite good a few shots suffered from poor focusing, exposure problems or visible distracting objects. A bit of thought about how and what you want to photograph before the shutter is pressed can help so don't be in a hurry. Relax, watch your flowers grow and think how you can make them look their best in your picture.

Sometimes when several images are technically similar in composition, focus and exposure, I tend to settle on the one that I "like" best which usually has something to do with the subject and my own taste. Interesting and unusual subjects or the perspective that they are photographed from often appeal to me. As garden photographers you might want to photograph favorite parts of your garden from different angles and on days with different lighting conditions. As we can see the submitted photos, even a small part of the garden can have vibrant color, sweeping lines and exciting textures to enjoy.

There were a couple of submitted images that, in my opinion, didn't fit the category they were entered in. "Creatures enjoying the garden" should probably be in some type of garden setting to be valid entries. Wild animals in the forest or in a cage, while possibly interesting, are really not "enjoying the garden". A couple images were disallowed as they were obviously from commercial gardens and did not fall into contest criteria. While commercial gardens are great places to take pictures, it is best to read the fine print before entering them in contests or trying to sell the photos.

In closing, I'd like to thank the New Westminster Horticultural Society, for asking me to judge the 2007 Photo Contest. Thanks also to the many gardener/photographers who submitted interesting and thoughtful images. Keep up the good work.

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:** Although we were expecting a talk on flowering shrubs, all in attendance enjoyed Jennifer Ryan's excellent presentation on "Autumn Colour". Most enticing photos from a person that really knew the plants she talked about and how to speak to a group. If you happened to miss the names of the plants, Jennifer sent her slide list to Audrey. Just email Audrey for the list and notes. When Jennifer is not teaching, she can be found at GardenWorks on Lougheed.

**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 being one of the quietest months of the year for the vege gardener, we will have time to dream over next seasons catalogues—after we have harvested the Brussel sprouts, cabbages, broccoli, turnips, parsnips & carrots.

We are constantly being reminded of the dangers of all the chemicals that are in purchased produce. So it is wonderful to grow our own that we know are totally free of any such compounds. Some of the other good reasons for growing our own vegetables and berries include: you can reduce food costs, put leisure time to use and have a good excuse to spend more time outdoors. We can produce vegetables and berries that are likely to taste better than that which you can buy from stores. If you enjoy the work and the results, as lots of home gardeners do, then those may be the best reasons.

Thoughtful planning is a key step to establishing a successful garden. It will save you time in planting as well as in caring for the garden.

Deciding on a site: Most vegetables and berries require full sunlight to grow best. Look for a place that gets at least 6 hours of full sun each day. Avoid planting a garden near shrubs and trees. Not only will their shade slow the growth of your crops, but their roots will compete with your crops for water and nutrients. Choose a site conveniently near your house, one that has water available or can be reached by a hose. Try to locate your garden on level land. If the land is sloping, it is best if it slopes downward to the south or south-east. Choose a place for your garden that's protected from cold winds in spring and hot, drying winds in summer. Keep in mind that low-lying areas often trap cold, frosty air. Because completely stagnant air can encourage some diseases to flourish, avoid placing your garden where there is no air movement at all. If you can't find a place to garden that fits these requirements, think about alternatives such as growing vegetables in containers or in a greenhouse.

(Article to be continued in the spring.)

**HAPPY XMAS AND A GOOD NEW YEAR!!**

GardenWorks Appreciation Day: Thurs, Dec 18th.

**THIS & THAT:**

- Gift certificates for a 2008 club membership are available through Audrey (\$10 each, of course)
- Are you in the market for a large Norfolk Pine?? Look no further, Jim (at 604-551-9099) has a beauty—over 7 feet high, 3-4 feet wide at the right price: FREE!! Ideal growing conditions are no direct sun and no drafts. Please contact him before Dec 20th.
- Your NWHS executive wishes you all the best in 2008. May all your plants grow just as you would like them to.