

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;

February, 2007

CLUB MEETING CALENDAR:

FEBRUARY MEETING: Tonight: Tues, Feb 13th, 7:45. RUDI PINOWSKI, of the Pacific North West Palm & Exotic Plant Society, will be presenting "HOT PLANTS FOR COOL PLACES". But before we get to that treat we will be voting on the Plant Sale Budget and completing and submitting the 2007 member's survey. Also, your annual membership fee (still only \$10) is due. Your 2006 card expires at the end of the month.

MARCH MEETING: Tues, Mar 13th, 7:45, BRIAN MINTER, "he who needs no introduction", will be zipping us into action in our gardens (and into nurseries) with an inspiring talk "NEW TRENDS IN GARDENING". A evening not to be missed!

CLUB OUTINGS:

Plant Sale Preparation starts Sat, Feb 24th: in Audrey's yard, see Plant Sale Extravaganza for more details

United Flower Growers Auction Tour: Thur, Mar 15th, 6:30am (Yep, early—that is not a typo!). A guided tour behind the scenes at the big flower auction on Marine in Burnaby. Would you believe 4000 individual purchases are made every hour? See the action and see how it is done. Sign-up tonight or contact Carole Forsythe (604-515-1927) or carole.forsythe@shaw.ca for details.

BC Council of Garden Clubs 2006 Annual General Meeting: Sat, March 24th, 8:30 to 2:30, PNE Boardroom. \$20 admission includes hot buffet lunch. Also expect plant (and other stuff) sales, a fantastic raffle and a good time socializing with other members. Marilyn Holt will be presenting on Pelargoniums (Geraniums)—and selling them!. Rick Fawes, on organic soil from the sea. Sign-up with payment tonight—at the head table, as the treasurer's table will be very busy processing memberships. The deadline for signing-up is our March meeting (no refunds after we have sent in our list of members attending). Or, if you like, you can pay \$25 at the door.

BILL SWAN: We haven't seen Bill at meetings for quite awhile but still his passing moves us. He died on Dec 16th, just 4 months after his wife Gerda. 96 years old!! One can still envision talking "with" him. He treated everyone with compassion and dignity. Thankfully, until the end his mental facilities did not fail him. Bill & Gerda were missed from our meetings when they moved to Langley but they will forever remain in our hearts.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: by Audrey

Welcome to "NWHS 2007". The first general meeting! It may be hard to believe but for many of the executive this is the 4th meeting of 2007 (one executive and two plant sale). That's one reason why there is no January meeting—there is so much to get done and line-up before the year officially starts...also, there is the real possibility of ugly weather in early January.

HERE'S YOUR 2007 NWHS EXECUTIVE:

President: Audrey Barnes (604-526-8284 before 8pm)

Vice-president: Carole Forsythe (604-515-1927)

Treasurer: Mary Barnard (604-525-5928)

Secretary: Debra Halbig (604-618-8648)

Show Chairperson: Sharon Seki (604-525-1611)

Members-at-Large:

Anna Camporese (604-525-0543)

Micheline Ippersiel (604-521-6324)

Monica Mowat (604-521-3906)

Silina Nakatsu (604-521-7351)

Rose Oke (604-517-0002)

You probably recognize the faces—all have helped extensively in putting on NWHS meetings and events in the past. Soon you will be able to connect the faces to the names. As mentioned in the mailer, each will be a willing recipient of your "feed-in" of opinions and ideas regarding the club. Feel free to approach them, but remember each has their own lives outside the club. It would be a nice gesture to extend my "no phone calls after 8pm" to each of them.

Many thanks to the outgoing executive Lori Graham, Lori Jenvey, Ann Paisley, Roy Pegler and Lesley Wood. NWHS is a better club for the effort and help you extended. It is time for you to sit back on your laurels and relax and enjoy the club you helped forge. Again, many thanks.

This year, January in NWHS, was much more exciting than most years—due to the fact that the Royal Square Mall, who generously hosted our sale for many years, would not be able to extend the courtesy for this May due to the fact they will be a construction site. Yikes! We had got so complacent about "being at the Mall". A panic filled meeting in which we brainstormed alternative sites! Would we have to hold it outside? Would we have to seriously downsize? What about the night before set-up? What about security? Location? Would we have to change the date? *What a down & up week!* As you know, we have secured the gymnasium of the Glenbrook Middle School for the sale...and the set-up the evening before. It is HUGE!!!! Things just clicked into place. The gymnasium was our number one choice of a site and when we investigated all the location suggestions, it was really the only viable one. We have already received great support from the school. Our raffle will be in support of their new playground fundraising—you'll see some details tonight! Maybe the start of something special....

CHRISTMAS PARTY & AWARDS 2006:

Once again a jolly time was had by all. Good eats, great company—an all around good evening. The Elves outdid themselves in creating raffle prizes. In fact, Audrey & Sharon were starting to feel fatigued pulling those numbers. There is a question in the survey as to possible changes for the evening for next year. If you have any post-survey suggestions, please talk with Audrey.

PHOTO & CONTAINER CONTEST AWARDS:

The awards presentations were probably the most rollicking in the club's history. This was the first year in which there were no Parlour Show awards as the season long showbench was replaced (in part) by the June In-Club Show. Perhaps it was due to the recipients already knowing they had won. All the photo contest entries with the winners highlighted were posted on the wall—as were the winning entries of the container contest.

As Parlour Show Chairperson, Lori Graham, presented the awards. (Thank you, Lori G) The winning entries and presentation photos will be on the website once its reconstruction is complete. (Thank you, Lori Jenvey for the photos)

Who won what?

Photo contest:

Category 1: Colour in the Garden

1. Diane Escalante
2. Trudy Findlay
3. Audrey Barnes

Category 2: Creatures Enjoying the Garden

1. Diane Escalante
2. Lesia Gojda
3. Debra Halbig

Category 3. Overall or Partial Garden View

1. Audrey Barnes
2. Diane Escalante
3. Karen Low

Container Contest: We had a tie in votes!!

Kath Conolly
Linda Turnbull

THE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: As you are probably aware, each year we pick a different worthy compassionate charity to be the recipient of our Christmas raffle proceeds. It has become custom to round the number up by a vote of the members present. This year we selected **Crossroads Inlet Centre Hospice**. They sent us a lovely thank you note:

"Wow...gardeners are very generous indeed.

Thank you to all the members of the New Westminster Horticultural Society for your generous donation of \$1000. I was especially moved by your act of kindness and caring by increasing your \$680 fundraising total to \$1000.

I just know that the good word spread by our outstanding passionate volunteer, Diana Flostrand was a positive influence.

Being an avid gardener myself, actively volunteering at our Colony Farm Community Gardens, I assure you that your money will be well spent on items for our community gardens and perhaps our two rooftop gardens at Crossroads Inlet Centre Hospice.

We would love to offer you a tour of our hospice and our community garden once the weather is conducive to gardening. Hopefully soon!

*Thank you for your support and happy gardening
Barb Henham, Crossroads Hospice Society"*

2007 PHOTO & CONTAINER

CONTESTS: Every year, the same advice is put forward: start thinking now about your entries into the photo and container contests—and every year 98% of us, leave it to Sept. We have kept the rules the same as last year. You can find them on the last page of the club roster included in the mailer.

Here's some of the reasons behind the contests:

PHOTO CONTEST: We have kept the three categories the same over the years because they are photos which people usually take of gardens: creatures, colour and views. Also they are photos which can be judged to non-vague criteria. By putting the emphasis on the quality of photos you take, it is hoped that you will *really look* at your and other persons gardens and *evaluate* what you are including in your picture. Thus you will *appreciate* more what you see. Also, by striving to follow the guidelines that Steve Grover has suggested, your pictures will, with practice, become better compositions and give you *more pleasure* later.

CONTAINER CONTEST: The idea behind this contest is to be a venue in which members can show other members interesting and beautiful plant combinations they have used. That is why the judging is by the membership—you get to look at the entries (aka, the ideas) Because it is a "container" contest, members need not have a yard to participate. A "container" is a nice gardening unit—it is a finite entity. It is suggested that there be an overall picture so that the coordination of the plants is evident. It is a container contest, not a photo contest. But, obviously, good photos show plants better than poor photos. For that reason, the limitation of "photo by grower" is lifted. Don't have a good camera? Ask Audrey to take some photos for you.

UPCOMING MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS: All members receive either phone or email notification of our upcoming meetings. Unless you don't want to (in that case, tell us!). **Anna Camporese** will be writing and sending the emails starting with the March meeting. If you have a change in your address or would like to get on the list, send her an email. **Rose Oke** (604-517-0002) is our new head phoner. If you are not on the email list, you are on the "to be phoned" list. She is also *looking for some people to help out by taking on the responsibility of phoning 8-10 members per month.* It is a good way to make friends.

IN YOUR VEGE PATCH: by the Urban Gardener, also known as Roy Pegler who would love talk “grow’n veges” with you—*That is, once he & Dot return from their basking in the Hawaiian sun holiday.*

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!!

Hopefully the real cold weather is over and we can think about getting out in the garden to clean up the mess of winter. I would like to repeat an article I wrote a couple of years ago about thinking before you start digging in the soil—PLAN, PLAN and PLAN, as it is so important to the success fo the garden.

1. How many hours and dollars do I want to spend gardening?
2. What do I really want to grow?
3. Do I want enough produce to freeze, can & preserve?
4. How will I intergrate my kitchen garden into the loverall landscaping?
5. What site makes the most sense in terms of appearance, sunshine, competing plantings, micro-climats and access to water and equipment?
6. What additives does my soil need?
7. What will I do about mulching?
8. Do I need to fence the garden?
9. Do I want raised beds or garden at ground level?

GardenWorks Appreciation Day: Thurs, Feb 16th

LIBRARY NEWS:

Just a quick review of how our library works. Members are invited to borrow books for a one month loan period. Take a book home this meeting, bring it back next meeting. Pretty simple! Monica Mowat, our librarian, has updated the list of books we have. The list is at the library table. Do you see a book you would like to borrow, but it is out? See Monica about putting your name on the reservation list. When the book is returned and you are at the meeting, you get to sign it out next. Check in when you arrive to alert Monica that you are present and would still like the book. Also pretty simple! Of course all this is dependent on the books being returned in a timely manner. Please be responsible about returning them on time. If you miss the meeting, both Monica and Audrey are willing to receive the books at their homes. There is really no excuse for a late book. The books are for all the members to use.

We are constantly upgrading our library stock. If there is a book you feel “no gardening library should be without” discuss it with Monica. We all have different gardening interests. If you want books reflecting your interests, tell her! We do accept donations of books. Be aware that the library is of limited size and emphasis is on current books. Show the book(s) to Monica. She may suggest that it is kept over for the Silent Auction or put on the free table. Sometimes, donated books end up on the raffle table.

WINTERFEST 2007:

Just this last Saturday, Feb 10th, at the suggestion of Claude Le Doux, NWHS took part in this celebration of growing community spirt leading up to the 2010 Olympics. We were braced for rain but what a fantastic balmy afternoon. Keeping with the “growing” theme, we were going to show people how easy it is to “grow from seed”. Well, we didn’t get down to the dirty of actually getting our hands in the soil but we had great response at our display. Several keeners went home with seeds, pots, “how to” info, catalogues, club information and sale fliers. It was a real pat-on-the-back to have people zeroing in on us to ask about the sale. I’m a bit in awe of the respect we have from the community. Very positive feedback about the more spacious sale site. Two gardeners have invited us to their yards to collect plants for the sale. Many thanks that Joan Miller’s temporary unemployment enabled her to help with the booth.

WEBSITE UNDER REVISION:

If you have checked our website lately, you will noticed a unsettling lack of up-to-date information. Soon that will change. We are in a transition period between webmasters. We salute **Lori Jenvey** for her hard work in designing the original site and babying it through its teething period. Our website has received numerous kudos from a variety of people. Our new webmaster, **Bob Santarossa**, is fine-tuning the new format and soon will be posting “all the latest” news. Thank you for your patience.

One new feature will be the inclusion of a forum page where members will be able to register and ask gardening questions—and answer the gardening questions of others.

Our previous server limited the number of photos we could post. We have high hopes that Bob has resolved that problem. Gardening is and gardens are a visual experience.

SEEDY SATURDAYS: Two coming up soon!

SEEDY SATURDAY AT VANDUSEN: Now in its 18th year, this event seems to grow every year. Sat. Feb 24th, 10-4, at VanDusen Garden Floral Hall. More than 30 growers, seed companies and exhibitors. “Seeds of Curiosity” family activities. Heritage & organic seeds for vegetables, herbs & flowers. Speakers & demonstrations. Heritage seed swap. www.vandusen.plantexplorers.com connects you with the seed catalogue (you can order on-line) of the VanDusen Seed Collectors. The information line for the event is 604-878-9274.

SEEDY SATURDAY AT THE HANEY FARMERS MARKET:

This is the inaugural year for this event. Sat. Mar 3, 9-4 at Memorial Park on 224th between Lougheed Hwy and Dewdney Trunk Road in downtown Maple Ridge. Seeds, plants and other garden related items such as composted manure and recycling. Expect music and all kinds of vendors at the Farmers Market.

OUR SEED EXCHANGE: Returns tonight on the free table. Thank you to all members who donated the seeds and to Buff O’Shaughnessy (and trusted side-kick, Ross) who processed them for us.

PLANT SALE: READY, SET, GO!

Yep, it is that time of year again. Plant sale prep time! Boy, where does a year go! As you are probably well aware, our sale this year is on Sunday, May 6th (one week before Mother's Day), 10am to 4pm. Big news but probably old news to you, is the different location: We will be in the Glenbrook Middle School Gymnasium—just across 8th Ave and the playing fields from our old site, Royal Square Mall. It is sumptuous in its spaciousness! We will be setting-up the night before as usual. A few drawbacks to the site which will probably turn out to be minor inconveniences—our customers will not have the handy Safeway carts to use for shopping and we will be lacking the fast food services of the Mall.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE BUDGET VOTE: Last year our sale expenses were just under \$2000. This was in part due to the generosity of the Mall which charged us virtually no rent. Rent for 2007 will be at least \$600 and then we will probably need additional tables... Anyway, because some of the expected expenses will be over \$250, the amount for which we need a membership vote of approval, the executive is approaching the membership to approve an annual maximum budget for the plant sale. ***MOTION: NWHS allocates \$3000 for the 2007 Plant Sale Budget as the maximum amount the plant sale committee can use to pay for plant sale expenses.***

WHY WE HOLD OUR SALE: Here are some of the reasons:

- Our plant sale is the financial life-line of the club. It is through its success that we are able to bring in the fantastic speakers we have at our meetings. It also pays the rent, for the tea, for the library books, subsidizing admissions and the Christmas Party.
- Through the start of plant sale preparation and right to the final sweeping of the sale floor, it offers a innumerable opportunities for club members to partake in the success of a great venture. We urge every member to help in some way and thus enjoy that great feeling of helping to accomplish something fantastic. There are not many events that offer such a variety of opportunities—see page 2 of the Extravaganza to see how you can participate in the plant preparation. Plant preparation is the major part of the sale.
- Great friendships can be forged over the potting-up table. It is a fantastic opportunity to socialize and learn at the same time. All the club's outings attempt to meld socializing with education. The sale, especially the plant preparation part, succeeds like no other event the club organizes.
- It offers club members a guilt-free venue to get rid of unwanted plant material. Funny things about plants—They grow! They self seed! Left by itself, a perennial will go into decline after it's clump gets too big. Perfect! Divide the plant—the piece you keep will revive and thrive and our sale customers can enjoy your plant in their gardens as well.

THE SALE COMMITTEE: We have an excellent group who are willing to guide other members through their personal sale experience. This committee needs your help to pull off another successful sale. If you are interested in helping in any of the areas, approach that member or wait for the appropriate sign-up sheet.

Sale chairperson: Audrey Barnes

Plant Collection: Monica Mowat

Plant Preparation: Audrey Barnes

Plant Tags & Signage: Sharon Seki

Publicity & Communication: Joan Miller & your name here?
Joan will have to step down after March 3rd.

Raffle: Merril Hall (PAC liaison) & Audrey Barnes

Set-up: Aldina Isbister & Ann Paisley

Sale-day: Carole Forsythe

Tallier supervisor: Joy Makepeace Smith

Take-down: Ellen Berg

Vegetables: your name here?

Perennials: Lorna Cloutier & Sharon Seki

Annuals: Diane Escalante

PUBLICITY IS STARTING NOW. Because of the change in site, we are starting our PR blitz now. Think! Each of you must have a network of friends or fellow workers who would be interested in some "fantastic plants" at "can't beat" prices. Take some small posters to hand out, large posters for public boards. Email Audrey if you would like her to send you a PDF of the large sale sign to send onto others.

GROWING FROM SEED: One of our major "grow from seed" volunteers, Patti Kemp (who grew the most healthy plants, esp annuals, imaginable—many thanks Patti for your years of diligence) is stepping back from the task this year because she will be spending much of her time out of town. HINT, HINT: We need others to help out with this part of the sale. Consult with Audrey about what seeds you would like to grow. We will supply seeds, pots and soil. Audrey will continue to grow most of the tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, herbs but her space and time is limited...

THE PLANT SALE RAFFLE: Yes, we will have the raffle again this year. Our raffle recipient coordinates well with the new site. It will be the **Glenbrook Middle School PAC's Playground Fundraising Drive**. At the meeting tonight you will be treated to a brief presentation of what they expect to build.

PLANT SALE PREPARATION: *Yard works starts on Sat Feb 24th.* The sign-up calendar is available tonight. Between now and then, check out your gardens for those plants you that you need to divide or remove. Loads of plant tags are available at the head table for you to include a tag with your clump. The Extravaganza is about plant prep.

THE NWHS STORE: We still have loads of the **black plant saucers** that we were selling at the Nov meeting. \$1 each for 12, 14 or 18" diameter. See sample at head table. Stock is in Audrey's basement. Also, check out the "**Down-to-Earth Shovel**": This is the same shovel we were selling a few years ago. Yours for \$30 each. We are taking orders (at the head table) for shovels to be picked up at the Mar 24 BC Council meeting. Deadline to order shovels is our Mar 13 meeting.