

THE NEW WESTMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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www.newwesthortsociety.org

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September 2007

CLUB MEETING CALENDAR:

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Tonight, Tues, Sept 11, 7:45 Patricia Fleming, of Delta Recycling Earthwise Garden, on "XERISCAPING". It is also the night of our fall "BRING TO SHARE" event. Take your exhibits to the desk at the fireplace end of the head table to get processed. If you want to nominate someone to receive financial assistance from the club, get a nomination form from Carole Forsythe tonight. The completed form must be back into her hands by Sept 30.

OCTOBER MEETING: Tues, Oct 9. No speaker as the evening is devoted to our ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION (*members only, no guests for this meeting*). All Container Contest and Photo Contest entries are due at this meeting. First chance at coveted NWHs Christmas Party tickets.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Tues, Nov 13. Annual General Meeting (election of 2008 executive, member votes). Speaker: Jennifer Ryan on "FLOWERING SHRUBS"

DECEMBER MEETING: Tues, Dec 11. No regular meeting. The evening is reserved for our Seasonal Celebrations also known as the Christmas Party. As a major part of the evening is a buffet dinner, tickets must be purchased for this event.

CLUB OUTINGS: *Carole Forsythe (604-515-1927; carole.forsythe@shaw.ca) is the person in charge of outings unless otherwise stated with a specific outing.*

DELTA RECYCLING EARTHWISE GARDEN: Sat, Sept 15, 10am. As a follow-up to our Sept meeting, we have arranged a one-hour guided tour of this garden. The Earthwise Garden is based on the concept of garden ecosystems. It is comprised of several display gardens, each demonstrating an ecological approach to gardening. Please sign-up and pick-up map at the head table tonight.

QUEENSBOROUGH URBAN FARMER'S FALL FAIR: Sun, Sept 23, 10am-4pm. This is a great day of family fun—you won't want to miss it. Admission: Adults (18 yrs & older) \$3.00; Children & Seniors \$2.00; Children under 3 free. The theme of the fair is "cows". Lots to see and do. *See article elsewhere in the newsletter regarding the club's involvement in the Fair.* Audrey has a PDF of both the competitions flyer and the fair poster. If you want to email fair details to someone, email her at sgbarnes@telus.net and she will send you the PDF.

BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS FALL MEETING: Sat, Oct 27th, Admission (includes lunch) \$20.00. More details next month when we will gladly take your money. New location.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: by Audrey

Wow! Isn't this fall weather great! I love this time of year. Typical, though, now that everyone is back to work and to school....

A busy few months coming up in garden club related activities: Queensborough Fair—in two weeks that will be over! Please come out and help. Then we jump into getting things organized for the Silent Auction. Please drop off your items at the house. It makes things so much easier come the evening of the Auction. If you want to come over and help process the items, just email or phone or talk with me. I love socializing while doing a job. It only takes an hour or two to tag and sort a huge number of items. I guess, I had better pull everything out from the corners of the house where they have been stored. My calendar then shows a bit of a break in club activities—oops that's when I get the Christmas lights sorted! Then, 3 weeks before the Christmas party, our basement is turned into craft central for members to come over and make raffle prizes. Love it! *PS: to all who left their fragrance at home, many thanks.*

2008 EXECUTIVE: wanna be on it???

In just two months we will be announcing the 2008 NWHs executive. This year, all positions are open, although several of the current executive have expressed interest in staying on. If you are interested, please contact Anna Camporese, Anna_Camporese@telus.net (604-525-0543) or Audrey Barnes, sgbarnes@telus.net (604-526-8284). Both prefer phone calls before 8pm.

The positions are:

President

Vice-President

Treasurer (money matters)

Secretary (records minutes)

Show Chairperson (in charge of all events in which members exhibit something)

Members-at-Large (up to 5 positions) (a great position to learn the inner workings of the club)

President & Vice-president are two year terms. All other positions are one year. Being on executive is more than attending two meetings a month (the general meeting and the executive meeting). It means that you will be *really* involved in the running of the club—you will be expected to head at least one committee and to be open to the suggestions from the general membership. It is interesting being at the center of things. Our club is very active. That is due primarily to the hard work of the executive. Being on executive is not an easy ride—but is a very interesting one.

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

The vegetable season so far has been very good. Most crops have done very well considering the unusual summer weather. There is still plenty of time to sow lettuce and Swiss chard and broccoli for late fall & winter harvesting. Remember to keep picking the beans every other day as they will keep producing until the first frost.

Now is the time to start thinking of growing garlic and as Brian Minter, our gardening guru, says “the time to plant the cloves is Sept 19th”. Garlic is easy to grow and very rewarding. First, always use planting garlic, as the eating garlic found in grocery stores is often sprayed with growth inhibitors to prevent sprouting. If possible, plant the cloves in the fall before the ground freezes. This will allow the cloves to germinate in the ground during the warm weather and root formation to take place. It is normal to plant the cloves upright so that the tip is 2 inches below the soil surface but if planting in the fall, they should be 3 1/2” below the surface. Always select a location that receives full sun. A loamy soil that has high organic matter content and is well-drained is ideal. Work the soil to a depth of 8 to 12 inches as garlic roots reach deep into the soil. Garlic prefers moist, not wet, soil. Allowing the soil to dry out during growth will cause irregular shaped bulbs. Stop watering in late June. Too much water is detrimental when they are almost ready to harvest. Fertilize with a general all purpose fertilizer but only up to mid-May. Hold off on the fertilizer after that date. One of the most common mistakes is to wait too long to harvest. If garlic is left in the ground too long, the bulbs shatter. Harvest when the lower leaves have turned yellow/brown but the upper leaves are still about 40% green. To avoid stem injury, bulbs should be dug rather than pulled out of the ground. Garlic must be cured. If properly cured it will last at least 6 months. Dry the entire plant for 2 to 3 weeks in a well-ventilated room out of direct sunlight. After curing, trim off the tops about an inch above the bulb and remove any remaining roots.

Beware: Home grown garlic is seductive. Once you sample it, you may never again make do with the mass-produced commercial varieties. At this point, I don’t think I could never not grow garlic. It’s so easy!

GardenWorks Appreciation Day: Thurs, Sept 20th

7:00 MEETING STARTING TIME:

At the November AGM, the membership will be voting on changing the starting time of the general meetings to 7:00pm instead of the present starting time of 7:45pm. We have checked: the room would be available from 6:00 for set-up. At present we set up starting at 6:30. Many of our speakers would prefer the earlier time. Think about the possible time change and how it would affect your enjoyment of the meetings. It is naïve to think that either starting time would be ideal for all members. We would like the discussion to take place now, so come November, the vote can be processed quickly. The motion will only be regarding the starting time of the meeting. The executive has discussed the agenda of the meeting and all agreed that although the present time-line is not perfect, it is best.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: Last month landscaping architect Teri Cantin introduced us to the basic concepts of **GREEN ROOFS & LIVING WALLS**. With global warming being big news, any method of reducing it is also big news. We are all familiar with the enhanced cooling effect of greenery instead of pavement around a house. Likewise growing plants on a rooftop reduces the heat effect for the surrounding area—not to mention improving the building’s thermal performance (great insulating buffer, those plants and soil!). Nicer to look at too. Teri briefly talked on some of the different roof systems and plants grown—and their maintenance. Most of her examples were for huge buildings but she also touched on small buildings that we could possibly have in our yards. Living walls (plants grown on the wall) or green screens (vines grown up a trellis or wire framework to cover a wall) are utilized with the same benefits. It was all most interesting. By the questions asked, many seemed to want more info on how to build their own green roof. She strongly suggests, if you want to try it, do further research regarding the technology involved or enlist the expertise of a professional. Of course, if you have that garden shed that does not need to be water-proof.... If you are interested in the project, Teri has donated a copy of a publication put out by Green Roofs for Healthy Cities to the club library. Check it out, or their website, www.greenroofs.org.

NWHS DONATION NOMINATIONS:

If you would like to submit a nomination for some of the \$2000 NWHS money available, get the required form from Carole Forsythe tonight. Get it filled out and submit it back to her by Sept 30th. You personally do not need to fill it out. Get it done by the nominee.

Recipients must be in one or more of these fields: gardening/horticultural education; horticultural research; native plant habitat restoration; gardening-related programs that will benefit the community or a needy segment of the community. Preference will be given to New Westminster-based organizations or initiatives. The recipient cannot be politically or religiously affiliated. It cannot be a lobby group. Nor can it award one specific individual. Easy for us to say, eh? If you are unsure of the eligibility of the project or initiative you would like to nominate, consult Carole, 604-515-1927, carole.forsythe@shaw.ca.

As soon as the nominations are received, they will be evaluated against the above criteria. This is where the **Donations Committee** does its work. Carole is still looking for persons to be on the committee. Not a big job but an important one. Obviously if you nominated someone, you cannot be on the committee. If interested, contact Carole. On Oct 23, at the executive meeting, Carole will present the committee’s recommendations for approval. At the November AGM, the announcement of the donations will be made. It is hoped that the recipients will be in attendance to receive their cheques.

SILENT AUCTION:

For those of you who have never experienced our Silent Auction, expect the room to look different next month. There is a minimum number of chairs because the room is filled with tables covered with items donated by members. Also, you won't be sitting down very long. *This meeting is for members only. No memberships will be sold at the Oct meeting.* Our auction usually does not have big-price items—however if you want to donate such, it would be appreciated. All proceeds go to the club's offers. It is a fun evening even if you are not in search of a deal. Many of us just enjoy the people watching.

Donating the items: We all have things around the house that we don't really want—that gift that just wasn't you, those tools you no longer need, that batch of jam that is much more than you could eat in three years, books no longer favorites occupying valuable shelf space...endless possible donations to the auction. All that is bid on at our auctions is donated by club members. When we conducted our survey in February, some members thought the quality of items was getting rather low—*Well...donate some good stuff!!!* Although it is alright to bring your items directly to the meeting, if you have a large number of items (or even a few) it is advisable to drop them off at Audrey's (117 Seventh Ave) kitchen door. It is best not to leave them in the carport as they may be overlooked or someone else might take them. By leaving them at Audrey's they can be pre-processed (i.e. the bidding slip can be made out and the items organized as to type). This saves much time at the meeting and makes the allotment of the table space more efficient. You can always phone Audrey ahead of the drop-off. If you are bringing items directly to the meeting, we hope to have a few experienced members available to help you get the slips written out and placing your item with similar ones.

Pricing: Many of the smaller items will have a starting bid of 25¢. If there is a bidding war, the final bid will reflect the item's worth. No bidding war—you get a deal! If you drop off something really good, tell us what you would like as the minimum. Usually, if an item is not bid upon, authorized persons will reduce the minimum bid by half. You can specify that the starting bids for your items are not reduced. Also, if you like, you can retain ownership of items if they are not bid upon. Normally, any good items not bid upon get donated to charity.

Auction night: When you arrive at the meeting, pick up your name-tag (so we know who you are) and go to the treasurer's table to get your bidder's number.

As soon as an item is on a table, you can bid. On the left side of the slip, put your bidder number. On the right side, put your bidding amount. If you are the first person, you can bid the minimum. Bids must be in amounts that are a multiple of 5¢. There is a 5 min warning so you can make sure you get your final bid in on that coveted object. At auction end (about 9pm), all bidders must leave the area. The winning bidder & bids are highlighted. Then you collect your won items. You get tallied and then pay at cash (small bills & cheques loved!)

CONTAINER & PHOTO CONTESTS:

As the entries for both contests are to be submitted at the October meeting (to Audrey by the podium), now is the time to check through your files and get your best photos printed. Or, in the case of the container contest, take those photos of your prize containers before these cooler fall evenings put them past their prime. Check the back of your club roster or the website for the complete rules. You can check out the past winners on the website too. For the photo contest, reading the judge's comments on past winners will help you evaluate your own pictures.

CONTAINER CONTEST: The idea behind this contest is to show other members what you have combined successfully in a container. That is why we need the plant list. Your photo should show how the plants work together. You can enter up to 3 containers. Write your name on the plant list. Next month we will have a stack of big envelopes. Each entry (photo plus list with your name) goes into its own envelope. In Nov all entries are posted and the winner is selected by popular choice.

PHOTO CONTEST: Unlike the container contest, here the quality of the photo is what counts. Our 3 categories typify what people just naturally photograph. Select your best 3 for each category and bring them to the October meeting. You will be assigned an exhibitor number. *Do not put your name on the photos.* If photo is normal format, it cannot be greater than 5" x 7". If panoramic, the smallest dimension cannot be more than 5".

The categories are:

1. Colour in the Garden (must be your garden)
2. Creatures enjoying the Garden (does not need to be your own garden). This can be domestic or wild—must be living—does not include humans.
3. Overall or partial view of a "non-commercial" (i.e. home) garden (does not need to be your own garden)

OUR PLANT SALE DONATIONS TO THE GLENBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL:

The proceeds of the raffle at our plant sale netted an all-time high of \$600. Thank you to all who bought tickets—and to the donors of the fantastic prizes. This money was donated to the Glenbrook Middle School PAC Playground Fundraising Drive. Recently we received a letter from Jim Underhill, Secretary for the GMS PAC:

"On behalf of the Parents' Advisory Council of Ecole Glenbrook Middle School I would like to thank the New Westminster Horticultural Society for their generosity and support through the donation of proceeds from the Spring Plant Sale at our gymnasium. Our playground project depends entirely on the involvement of the community and we are very grateful for the Horticultural Society participation. The PAC has been able to purchase the first piece of playground equipment, and is waiting for it to be installed by the City. On a personal note I very much enjoyed the plant sale myself and look forward to next year's. Thank you again."

QUEENSBOROUGH FAIR:

It is fast approaching—and it looks like it will be the best fair ever. As you know, NWHS is very involved—which translates to “we need many club members to donate a bit of time or expertise”. The fair is another of those great “work as a team” events.

THE NWHS DISPLAY: The theme of our display will be “Grass” (as in favorite food of cows). The club always has educational display related to the Fair’s theme. We have a good selection of ornamental grass plants and other great fall color plants that will be on display. Some, the very tall ones, will be static but others can be used to give the fair attendees ideas for effective combinations. We plan to have posters on grass types & care highlighting the differences between warm and cool weather grasses. Not to forget lawns: hopefully we can dig up a couple of chafer larvae to show people what the culprit looks like. Got lots of poster information on lawn care and chafer combat. Another poster would be on how the cow processes grass (the 4 stomach scenario) and maybe something on the end product, manure. We would like to have something interactive—got any ideas? We have a huge stack of GardenWise and Gardens West magazines to hand out as a freebie. *You have some too—drop them off at Audrey’s.* We won’t be doing big advertisement about collecting produce for Plant a Row, Grow a Row but we will have a poster and a box if people want to drop things off. This year we won’t be selling anything except many of the display plants—at 3:30. Any profits will go to the food bank. On Fair Day, we will need members to man our booth, probably for 2 to 3 hour shifts. Linda Turnbull will be there at 8am to oversee the final set-up of the display. Please sign the sheet stating your preferred hours.

DECORATIVE MATERIALS: NWHS does the displays for key fair locations (the stage, entrances, high profile empty spots) and, of course, for our own booth. We need display materials!!! Any vegetation, especially in autumn colors: corn stalks, tree branches, sunflowers, other cut flowers. Hopefully you held off on that fall pruning. Harvest produce: squash, apples, potatoes—anything. We will return it to you or donate it to Plant a Row, Grow a Row if you don’t want it back. Farm or cow-related objects—rustic tools, baskets, fake cows, milk containers. If you have such items, please record it on the list. We can pick up from your place but it would be appreciated if stuff could be dropped off at Audrey’s.

FAIR SET-UP TIMES: Sat, 11am to ?; Sun 7am to 10am. We will do the bulk of the work on Sat, leaving Sun for the placement of the more perishable items (such as vases of cut flowers and the club display posters) and fine-tuning. There is overnight security.

TRANSPORT: As there is much to transport, we are asking members with trucks or very roomy vehicles to help move everything from the collection spot (Audrey’s) to the fair on Saturday. Also at fair’s end, we move everything back to Audrey’s or take it to recycling. Please sign-up.

HELPING CREATE THE DISPLAYS: Two teams needed: one for the overall fair displays and one for the NWHS display. Its not often you get the chance to be given a huge amount of great materials and be told “go for it!”. Also, a great opportunity to get to know other members. The fantastic creations by our club members are why we are listed as a supporting sponsor on the fair posters. The displays get raves!! There are two sign-up sheets. Make sure you put your name on the one you mean.

QUEENSBOROUGH FAIR cont:

COMPETITIONS: There is a category for everyone—you can enter as many times as you like in each one. As a club member, NWHS will pay your entry fee. Pick up a competitions pamphlet tonight or check the website (www.newwesthortsociety.org). If your entries are not perishable, they can be dropped off to Audrey (Fri Sept 21is the latest). The drop-off time on Fair Day is 9am to 10:30am. HUGE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THIS SHORT PERIOD OF TIME TO PROCESS THE ENTRIES. Please add your name to the list at the head table. Why not drop off your entries early and stay awhile to help.

GETTING TO THE FAIR: Most of you know the location of the Queensborough Community Centre. That building and the surrounding fields is the fair site. If you haven’t been to Queensborough recently, you might not be aware that the overpass over Howes is completed. Before, after exiting off Queensborough bridge, one kept in the left lane to do the left turn off the Hwy onto Howes. Not so now. Keep in the RIGHT lane to turn under the overpass onto Howes. If you stay in the left lane, you will be on your way to the Alex Fraser Bridge. Once on Howes, keep going to the 4-ways stop. After turning left, keep a eye out for the Community Centre on your right—it will be obvious. If you are delivering display materials, it will be better to go right through the 4-way stop (after stopping, of course!) to the end of Howes and then turn left and a right again immediately after the school. This takes you to the back of the site.

“THIS ‘N’ THAT”:

■ Just one new member last month. We welcome **Shirley Oxenbury**. Sorry, we didn’t get your name tag created. It will be there in October so you can enjoy bidding at the Silent Auction.

■ Buff, of **Seed Exchange** fame, pleads that when you donate gathered seeds to the exchange, please supply complete details. Just as with our plant sale, if the details are not complete, your donation cannot be used. Meanwhile, many thanks to all who go to the effort of collecting seeds so that others can enjoy the plants.

■ The **CanWest Hort Show** is on tomorrow & Thurs (Sept12 & 13) 11:30am to 6:00pm. Canada Place Convention Centre. \$15 admission at the door. A really interesting opportunity to see some of the wholesale side of the horticultural and landscaping industries.

■ **Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden** is presenting a lecture in Seattle, Thurs, Nov 1. Graham Rankin on “The Most Beautiful Gardens in Wales”. The lecture is free but you must get a ticket. Ticket requests accepted Mon Sept 24th, 9am at info@millergarden.org or 1-206-362-8612. Sounds good if the timing works for you. Ticket includes post-talk refreshments.

E-MAIL NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS:

Please contact Anna Camporese if you have any changes to your email address or if you want to be added to the list. Anna_Camporese@telus.net. Please preface your email subject with “nwhs”.