



Photo & Container Contests in October



The 2007 Container Contest winning entry by Sharon Seki.

Photo: Frank Seki

With the recent fantastic (barring a few days) weather, the gardens have been bursting forth...and many of you have been snapping away with your cameras. Start evaluating (and printing) those photos now as potential entries in our photo and container contests.

For this year (may change for 2009) the photo contest categories remain:

- Colour in the garden
- Creatures enjoying the garden

- Over-all or partial view of a home garden.

For the container contest all you need to do is take a picture of your container and enter the photo. Did you try something different in with a container? Did a container turn out amazingly well? Share your success with your fellow club members and enter the contest.

See page 4 for contest rules.

—Audrey Barnes

Tonight's Meeting

Tuesday, August 12, 7:30 p.m.

Sharon Hanna

"Beneficial Insects"

Sharon Hanna is a regular contributor to *Garden Wise*, and she coordinates the food garden at Queen Alexandra Elementary School in Vancouver. Sharon will be bringing delphiniums to sell. Visit her blog at www.gardenwiseonline.ca/gw/sharon-hanna-blog.

Future Meetings

Tuesday, September 9, 7:30 p.m.

Dianne Gaines

"A to Z of Bulbs"

Diane is from the Van Noort Bulb Company. She will bring bulbs to sell.

Website Offline

After the interest generated by the club's webmaster, Robert Barton at last month's meeting, the website went down while we switched servers. By the time you read this, it should be up and running again.

Bob's talk resulted in the executive taking a closer look at the website. We'd appreciate your input. Attend the meeting on X at 7 p.m. in the Plaskett Room at the New Westminster Public Library or send Bob or Carole your thoughts.

—Carole Forsythe

Give Me Land Lots of Land

Recently, an informal meeting was held between City officials and a small group of citizens interested in starting up a community garden. While NWHS might not take on an official role in organizing the effort required to see it through to fruition, community gardening is a personal interest of mine.

Community gardens provide space for gardening to those without any (or enough of it), provide fresh produce, improve a neighbourhood's liveability, increase a sense of community, and connect people with the environment.

Finding a suitable site is only one of a myriad of items to be worked out. Let me know if you're interested in working on this project with me.

Everything Is Coming Up Roses

To commemorate the City of New Westminster's 150th anniversary, the rose garden in Queen's Park will undergo a \$60,000 restoration. The capital project includes installation of a drip irrigation system to reduce foliar disease and use of pesticides, raised beds to aid in maintenance, and signage to identify roses. In addition, the soil will be replaced with one specially blended for growing roses in our climate. Finally, in consultation with Brad Jalbert of Select Roses, approximately 800 new floribundas, hybrid teas and grandifloras will be chosen for their vigour, disease resistance and long lasting blooms.

To commemorate both the 75th anniversary of the New Westminster Horticultural Society and our long and fruitful relationship with the City, it is proposed that we donate \$2,000 from next year's budget to supplement the City's \$12,000 designated for the purchase of roses and signage. Next month, a vote will be held on this proposed donation.

Please direct your questions or concerns to Carole or Audrey in the meantime.

What? No Ice Cream?

What's your favourite ice cream? Strawberry? Cherry vanilla? Butter pecan? Fruits and nuts are in nearly forty percent of the ice cream made by Haagen-Dazs. So it is not surprising that this premium ice-cream maker is worried about the impact the serious and recent decline in honey bees might have on its supply of key ingredients. Therefore, the company is investing \$250,000 into research on Colony Collapse Disorder, the name given to the phenomenon. After all, without bees and other pollinators, there is no fruit and nut harvest. Ice cream aside, the quantity, quality and cost of our food supply is affected by

disappearing honey bees.

In 2006, honey bees began abandoning their colonies, leaving their eggs, larvae and honey behind. One or a combination of factors might be responsible, including a virus, mites, poor nutrition, loss of habitat and pesticide use. While we wait for the research results, we can all do our part to support the honey bee by growing a variety of native and alien flowers, providing a shallow source of water and not using pesticides in our gardens.

Contacts This Issue

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Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, **August 23**

2:00 p.m.

Tour of Waterhouse-Hayward Garden

5909 Athlone St., Vancouver
between Oak and Granville,
near 45th Avenue.

Sign-up required

Tuesday, **August 26**

7:30 p.m.

NWHS Regular

Executive Committee Meeting

Home of Anna Camporese

111 Princess Street,

New Westminster

RSVP

Thursday, **September 4**

3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Royal City Farmers Market

Tipperary Park, New Westminster

Saturday, **September 13**

9:00 a.m. meet at Centennial

Lodge, Queen's Park to carpool

11:00 a.m. tour of Garden

Tour of Minter Gardens and Country Garden

Sign-up required

Sunday, **September 21**

Queensborough Fall Fair

Saturday, **October 5**

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

BC Council of Garden Clubs

Feedback

Do you have a question,
comment or idea regarding the
NWHS? Contact Carole.
Contact Anna with your
feedback on the newsletter.

Out and About

The Waterhouse-Wayward Garden

Join us for the rare opportunity to see this renowned, private garden that features roses and hosta garden. The tour starts at 2:00 p.m. at Alex and Rosemary Waterhouse-Hayward's Vancouver garden (5909 Athlone St., between Oak and Granville, near 45th Avenue.) Members are encouraged to carpool.

The deadline to sign-up for the tour is 5:00 p.m. on August 15th by phoning or emailing Monica Mowat (see contact information on opposite page). There will also be a sign-up sheet at the meeting this evening.

Minter Garden Tour

Are you spending your Saturdays cleaning house? Take the day off and come to Minter Gardens with us!

On September 13, we're going to have a horticultural guide take us through Minter Gardens. The guide has the knowledge to answer all of our plant-related questions. There are acres to explore so wear your comfortable walking shoes.

After the guided tour, we'll enjoy a delicious buffet lunch in the Trillium Restaurant at Minter Gardens. For those who prefer to order a la carte, you can dine at the Envision Garden Café.

A short 15-minute drive away, we'll stop at Minter's Country Garden, an 18-acre destination garden centre with a superb selection of plant material. If you are looking for a specific plant, you'll find it here.

We're planning to carpool on our field trip. Passengers are encouraged to pay the driver to help pay for gas. Other costs include:

Admission(for a group of 15 or more):	\$11.50
Buffet lunch in the Trillium Restaurant (includes tax and gratuity)	\$15.75
Horticultural guide(paid by NWHS)	\$125.00
Total cost to you for Minter Gardens	\$27.25
Total cost to you for Country Garden	(priceless!)

If you'd like to join us, please sign up at the August or September NWHS meetings, and pay Aldina Isbister for admission and buffet lunch. Exact change is appreciated

BC Council of Garden Clubs - October 5th

The fall meeting of the BC Council of Garden Clubs, the umbrella organization that represents over 130 clubs across our province, is on Saturday, October 5th. NWHS is offering its members a \$5 discount on the registration fee of \$20 provided you register with Carole by Friday, September 19th.

While the meeting starts at 9:30 a.m., arrive earlier for light refreshments as well as the best selection of plants for sale. A prize draw ends the meeting at approximately 2:30 p.m. Geneviève Noël of Xero Flor Canada Ltd. will speak on green roof technology. After lunch, Dr. Alan Reid of GardenWorks will share his knowledge on pruning.

NWHS CONTAINER CONTEST 2008:

Share your container ideas with your club members by entering our container contest. This is NOT a photo contest but you will want the best photographs possible of your container. If you do not have a good camera, ask a member who does to take some pictures. For THIS contest, the member entering the contest does NOT need to be the photographer!

The Rules:

1. The contest is open to all who are paid up NWHS members as of the Oct 2008 general meeting.
2. Each member can enter up to 3 containers or hanging baskets. Each entry must be a distinct entity e.g. not a raised bed.
3. The containers must be created by the member.
4. At the Oct 2008 general meeting, the member submits up to 3 photos of each container accompanied by a list of all the plants used in each container. Obviously, the photos are best taken when the container looks its best. This does not mean that all photos need to be taken at the same point in time. For example, you might have a winter view and a summer view. The container can be started before Oct 1, 2007 (It can be several years old!) but the photos must be taken within the Oct 1, 2007 to the October 2008 meeting time-frame. At least one over-all view is advisable. Photo dimensions allowed: if in normal format, up to 5" x 7"; if panoramic, either width or length must be 5" or less. At the October meeting, there will be large envelopes available, one for each entry. Make sure that each of your entries has its own envelope and you have put the appropriate photos and plant list and your name in each envelope.
5. All photos and accompanying plant lists collected at the October meeting will be organized onto poster boards for display at the November general meeting. At the November meeting, each person in attendance will get one ballot to vote for the container that he/she selects as the best. Suggested judging criteria include: overall effect; colour combination; plant form/shape; suitability of plants for container and creativeness. Ballots will be collected and counted and the winner announced during the club's annual award ceremonies in December. The award for most votes will be a free 1-year club membership. If there is a tie vote, two memberships will be awarded. A poster highlighting the winning entry will be on display in December. If the vote is close, the second place entry will also be displayed. If there is a landslide win, only that entry will be posted.

NWHS PHOTO CONTEST 2008:

In this contest, the photos entered in the contest MUST be taken by the member entering the contest! No borrowing of photos by someone else! It is the photos themselves that are being judged.

The categories:

1. Colour in the garden: Must be your own garden
2. Creatures Enjoying the Garden: Can be domestic or wild: bird(s), animal(s), fish, reptile(s) or insect(s). Must be living. Does not include human creatures. Does not need to be your own garden.
3. Overall or Partial View of a "Non-Commercial" (i.e. Home) Garden: Does not need to be your own garden. Cannot be a display garden.

The rules:

1. Entrant must be paid-up NWHS member as of the October 2008 general meeting.
2. Photographs MUST be taken by the member.
3. Photographs must be taken after October 1, 2007
4. Photographs must be submitted no later than the October 2008 general meeting.
5. There is a limit of three photos per category for each member.
6. Photograph dimensions allowed: If in normal format, up to 5" x 7"; if panoramic, either the width or length must be 5" or less.
7. In October, the Show Chairperson will assign you a unique exhibitor number. Put that number, not your name, on the back of each of your photographs. There will be a large envelope designated for each category. Put your photographs into the appropriate envelopes.
8. Judging will be done by a qualified judge who is not a NWHS member. The winner in each category will receive a \$10 cash prize; each second place, \$5; and each third place, \$3. Awards will be presented during the club's annual awards ceremonies in December. In December, large posters highlighting the winning entries with the judge's comments will be posted. All other entries will also be on display.

Judging:

The following criteria are used in judging: Interest or impact of the image for the viewer; correct exposure of image (not too dark or too light); focus of main subject is correct; composition is appropriate for the subject (centered subject or distracting objects in photograph often hurt the composition); photography is entered in correct category and basic rules are followed.

Queensborough Urban Farmers' Fall Fair

It's looking like this Fair might just be the best yet. If you have been to the Fair before, you will know that is a high standard to meet. If you have yet experienced this Fair, you have your chance on Sunday, September 21st. Expect a fun-filled, family-oriented experience. With the theme this year being "Frogs", it will be a ribbiting experience!

Audrey Barnes is pleased to announce that she has finalized the Competitions Schedule. If you are a creative type, there is sure to be one or more categories

for you to enter. How about "Amphibian Spawn" or "Time Flies"? Check out the schedule and start planning those entries. Remember, that as NWHs club members, the club pays your exhibit fees.

NWHs is involved in the Fair in other ways as well. We have a huge, informative display in a prime location, usually with a mini-theme based on the overall fair theme. If you have ideas or want to be involved speak with an executive member? Also, it has become a tradition that some

of our members create seasonal displays for the entrance and stage areas. This is a great chance to enjoy your creative skills. We'll be asking members for the loan or donation of vegetative and non-vegetative display materials.



NWHs Tour & Picnic

The weather was great and the gardens gorgeous. Rita showed it is possible to have a private garden in the midst of a very public space. Joan opened our eyes to the challenges of making the Quay Boardwalk beautiful.

Dan and Terry had a garden that

was best expressed with Wow! Fantastic! Unbelievable! Claude and Adrian's garden, as always, was impressive and even more so this year. Susan may have had only one yard but a multitude of sanctuaries. Ellen & Nes were the ultimate picnic hosts.

Thanks to all those who shared their gardens, making the tour possible. Thanks to the Bergs for yet again hosting the picnic. Congratulations to Molly Stone who won the ever popular Garden Stumps Quiz.

In Your Vege Patch

By Roy Pegler

Far too often a harvest that should have been bountiful falls short of the goal right at the end. We may tend the garden just as we should all season long and then miss the reward because we harvested too soon or too late or made some mistake in curing or storing the crop.

Timing and care can make the difference between bounty and mediocrity. The slender bean that's perfect today is stringy tomorrow. Peas in the garden can go from sweet and crisp to bland and mealy in just a day. Corn that's sweet when picked before breakfast has a hint of starch if picked in the late afternoon. However, potatoes, garlic, onions, carrots, beets, cabbage and winter squash that are gently dug, well cured and stored in a cool, dry place will last into the spring.

With many vegetables—summer squash, cucumbers,

peas, green and yellow beans, and peppers—the more you pick during their growing season, the more you get. By harvesting regularly when the fruits are young and tender you easily increase your harvest. By picking peppers throughout their growing stages, you can enjoy their range of flavours, from the tang of a young green pepper to the sweetness of a fully mature red pepper.

When is the right time to harvest? Because ripeness means one thing to the vegetable plant and quite a different thing to the gardener, it is not always the best indicator of harvest time. For plants, ripeness is most often a measure of the maturity of the seeds. The more mature the seeds the riper the fruit. To us gardeners, ripe is when we find the fruit most desirable, whether the seeds are mature or not.

The pea plant's goal in life

is not to produce small, tender sweet peas to feed us, but to produce big, tough, starchy inedible peas that will be the seeds for next year's peas plants. That's why peas are picked at the young and tender stage not the ripe stage. A ripe tomato has mature seeds so it's technically ripe from the plants point of view and is also ripe from my point of view, too. Not only does a ripe tomato colour up nicely, but it easily comes away from the vine when you gently tug it. When the tops of garlic and onions brown and flop over, you'll know they are ready to gently dig out of your garden. Potatoes are also ready to dig when you see the tops wilt and die back.

Remember, August is the time to sow and plant the fall and winter produce such as swiss chard, lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, spinach and carrots.

Royal City Farmer's Market

The club returns as a vendor to the Market on September 4th. We will be emphasizing "Growing Winter Vegetables" by selling the following vegetable seedlings: Improved Siberian Kale, Walla Walla Onions, Tye Spinach, Vancouver Brussels Sprouts, Purple Sprouting Broccoli and January King Cabbage. Fifty percent of plant sale proceeds will be donated to Plant a Row, Grow a Row. See you at the Market!

—Audrey Barnes

The Club's Seed Exchange

'Tis the season to collect garden seeds. When collecting seeds remember the following: wait for the seed to ripen on the plant; let dry in a cool, dark location; store seeds in a paper envelope; and, finally, add your name and all known plant details when giving them to the exchange. Please do not store the seeds in plastic. This almost always guarantees the seeds becoming moldy.

'Tis also the season to give Buff O'Shaughnessy (604-526-3919; rosshood@telus.net) feedback on seeds you have grown from the exchange. Were the plants what you expected? What kind of germination rate did you get? She welcomes all feedback: positive or negative.

Thank you for sharing your garden with other members.

—Audrey Barnes