

# New Westminster Horticultural Society Newsletter

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

July 2008



## *NWHS Garden Tour and Picnic*

Our annual tour and potluck picnic is on Saturday, July 19th. No need to sign up. Just pick up a schedule. The gardens are only open for the posted time so follow closely or you'll miss out. Please note that the tour is limited to NWHS members and their guests and is adult oriented.

First on the tour is the public gardens at New Westminster Quay. Joan Miller, a member of the City's staff, will give us the inside scoop. For those of you who think condominium living and gardening don't go together, you haven't seen Rita Solkin's garden on the Quay. Small, yet spacious, with a view of the river, Rita's plant collection will astound you. And, you've just got to see her bonsai collection.

We then move uptown to view the granite and wrought iron work Claude LeDoux, the City's Parks Horticultural Manager and honorary club member, finished recently. See how he's blended the exotic with fruit and vegetable plantings throughout the garden rooms designed for relaxation. Dan Morasse's garden reflects his art deco heritage home. Well-designed and maintained, it features wrought iron accents and a basalt tower. And, you've just got to see what he's done on the City's boulevard. Finally, we'll see if the deadline Susan Pozniak hoped would encourage her husband to finish the deck and paving stones worked. Planted profusely, leaving little grass, wander from room to room and listen to the stream that flows into the fish filled pond.

The tour is followed by a potluck picnic at the home of Ellen and Nes Berg, our genial hosts. Unlike the tour, you must sign up tonight or contact Carole so that there's enough supplies on hand. If you're planning to attend the tour beforehand, either drop off your dish at the Berg's home before the tour or ensure that it keeps cool. (Food poisoning is no way to remember a picnic.) Food allergies? Let Carole know.

Do you have a favourite dish you'd like to share? Add it to the potluck list tonight. Children are welcome but please be aware that the Bergs have a large dog. Bring a chair or picnic blanket to sit on. Finally, please be considerate and call if you change your mind about attending.

And, yes, Audrey is preparing another mind boggling quiz to test your gardening knowledge. The winner receives possession of the Garden Stump for the year.

—Carole

## Tonight's Meeting

**Gwen Odermatt**

### **"Ponds, Plants and Wildlife"**

Gwen Odermatt of Petals and Butterflies Farm Nursery will speak on ponds, aquatic plants and the wildlife they attract. She is a member of the Great Plant Picks Selection Committee responsible for its perennial and bulb choices.

## Future Meetings

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](http://www.gardenwiseonline.ca/gw/sharon-hanna-blog)

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.

## Feedback

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

## Carole's Compost — By Carole Forsythe



*Carole Forsythe and Rita Solkin volunteering at the Club's plant laden booth at the first Royal City Farmers Market. Photo: Audrey Barnes*

We were present for the opening day of the Royal City Farmers Market (RCFM) last month. Despite overcast skies and cool temperatures, the who's who of New Westminster and then some were out in force. It was so successful, some of the vendors were taken by surprise and ran out of product early. The "problem" was rectified for the next week.

Besides providing information and answering questions on gardening, we sold a variety of sunflower, squash, cucumber and gourd seedlings. Given the interest in purchasing the native plants in our display, Audrey and I are already figuring out how we might make plant sales a regular feature of the market. My son had so much fun handing out promotional information and giving gardening

advice to other children, he insisted on joining and is now our youngest member. Several others also expressed interest in the club and may be here tonight as a new member or guest.

Our next appearance at the RCFM is on Thursday, August 7th. Given that the topic of next month's meeting is on identifying and attracting beneficial insects to the garden, we'll be there to answer questions on insects, both the beneficial and the not so beneficial ones. For our display, we'd appreciate examples of insect damage. (We'll accept the insects themselves as well.) Neither I nor my son will be available to staff our table. Audrey would appreciate some company. Call her to volunteer for an hour or two between 3 and 7 p.m.

Fifty percent of the sale proceeds went to New

Westminster's Plant A Row, Grow A Row (PARGAR), an organization that collects excess garden produce for food banks across Canada. Edibles that did not sell were given to Brenda Crockett, Farm Manager with the Richmond Tree Fruit Sharing Project. Like PARGAR, this organization shares the produce it grows or collects with those in need via charitable food distribution organizations. For more information or to volunteer, visit [www.richmondfruittree.com](http://www.richmondfruittree.com). Tonight, we're selling what's left of the weird but wonderful gourds for 50 cents each. Why pay at least four times as much for a decorative item when you can grow it yourself?

Thank you to all the members who dropped by our table. It was great to see so many of you supporting the RCFM. Audrey and I are already considering staffing and selling plants at next year's market more regularly. Want to join us?

### Contacts This Issue

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## Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, **July 19**

Noon to 4:30 p.m.

### **NWHS Garden Tour**

4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

### **NWHS Potluck Picnic**

Home of Ellen and Nes Berg

314 West Durham,

New Westminster

RSVP

Tuesday, **July 22**

7:30 p.m.

NWHS Regular

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

Home of Anna Camporese

111 Princess Street,

New Westminster

RSVP

Thursday, **August 7,**

3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

### **Royal City Farmers Market**

Tipperary Park,

New Westminster

## Out and About by Carole Forsythe

Looking ahead to August, don't miss the guided tour of the private garden of Alex and Rosemary Waterhouse-Hayward. Their garden features an amazing collection of roses and hostas. For a sneak preview, view his breathtaking photographs on his website, [www.alexwaterhousehayward.com](http://www.alexwaterhousehayward.com). Join us on X, August X at 5 p.m. Sign up tonight or contact Monica.

Aldina is in the midst of planning a trip to Minter Gardens in Chilliwack. At least one of the 11 themed gardens will inspire you. After lunch, we'll visit Country Garden, an 18 acre destination garden centre. Brian Minter himself will be on-site to answer your gardening questions. Be sure to bring your membership card for a discount on your purchases. Details will be available at the meeting in August.

Plant Sale 2009 by Carole Forsythe

Audrey's already ordered and is about to propagate the seeds of sought after, out of the ordinary perennials for next year's sale. Sharon Seki and I agreed to make room in our gardens to overwinter them. Are you able to do so as well?

We still need a member or two (or three) to propagate and care for annuals. Without your help, we will not be able to offer as much choice or volume to our customers. Contact Carole if you've got both the room in your basement or greenhouse and the desire to take on this responsibility.

Pesticide Bylaw Proposed by Carole Forsythe

Pesticide use not only poses environmental concerns, it is also linked to cancer and other health problems. The Canadian Cancer Society along with the newly formed New Westminster Pesticide Awareness Coalition is co-hosting a second public forum on restricting cosmetic pesticide use in New Westminster on Wednesday, July 9 from 6:30 to 8

## *Web Site Gets A Make-Over* by Robert Barton

Bob Santarossa, our Web master for the past few years, has passed the "mouse" over to me. As the new Web master, I'm in the process of redesigning the website. It's available for viewing as a Beta Test; meaning that it is still under construction.

When you arrive at <http://www.newwesthortsociety.org>, the first thing you will notice is the option to either enter the old site or visit the new one. Once you enter the beta test version, you will discover an exciting visual presentation with a new graphic and layout design along with new content such as a Kid's Gardening page and an interactive forum. All the previous content remains but some of it will be updated or removed to reflect the current status of the club.

The Beta Test site is subject to change based on the comments and suggestions I receive tonight and via the new feedback form on the Contacts page. This is your website, therefore, your input is important and it will help me resolve any problems related to the myriad of Browser, Operating System and computer configurations.

I look forward to your feedback. Happy surfing!



## June Show Organizer Debra Halbig Shares Her Thoughts on this Colourful Event



*Congradulations to our blue ribbon winners (left to right): Julia Golden (Other: Lupiine), Jaqueline Shephard (Clematis), Dan Tessaro (Rhubarb), Merril Hall (Iris, Non-bearded), Silina Nakatsu (Herbs), Debra Halbig (Iris, Bearded; Pansies), Sharon Seki (Rose). Photo: Debra Halbig*

Given the weather, I thought the turn-out was fantastic! (Let's hear it for low expectations!) The exhibits were all of good quality, making the judging nicely competitive. Susan and Silina performed their usual floral artistry for all to enjoy – and we also had a nice handful of new entrants in the floral art categories – both novice and “Bottom's Up”.

Apologies for the lack of exact numbers, but I'm sure we had at least six participants who had not brought things last year, 22 individuals brought a total of 47 exhibits. This is only down 13 exhibits from last year. Given the weather, I would actually say that this was MORE successful.

### Remarks on changes:

No one complained to me about there being less classes – of course there were few plants as well.

Breaking off “Other Flower” when we reached three, which happened with clematis, was wonderful. It meant that three more participants earned ribbons than would have, making the event more exciting and enjoyable for everyone.

\* Beginner and Miniature categories were both very successful and will be continued next year.

\* Non-competitive classes were entered – but by people who also entered judged ones, so shyness was not a factor. So, I think another year they may as well be judged. Ribbons are inexpensive and glory is free.

\* Overall, reaction seemed extremely favourable.



*Best in Show: Floral Art – Wreath by Susan Pozniak Photos: Debra Halbig*

### Floral Art Winners:

Silvana McNulty  
Susan Pozniak



## *Two New Virus' To Be Aware Of — Linda Turnbull*

### 1. **Lily Mosaic Virus** (pictured)

Symptoms that your lily plant is infected

- \* Plant grow horizontally not upright
- \* The plant tip is contorted and curled
- \* Leaves develop what appear to be dark brown water spots
- \* Leaves can also show a lighter veining and will brown off from the bottom

Professionals are not sure what causes this virus, but do know how it is spread.

The virus is spread by:

- \* Aphids
- \* Pruning tools not disinfected before re-use.

What to do if you find a lily that is infected:

- \* Remove and place the entire plant, bulb and all into the garbage,
- \*DO NOT\* recycle or compost any part of the infected plant.
- \* Remove just enough soil that is surrounds the bulb, about the quantity that would fill a 4 inch pot.

The good news is:

- \* The virus is host specific. In other words, the virus does not infect the soil or the plant next to it, as long as that plant is not visited by aphids or your pruners.

You can replant in the same spot. I am told by Dr. Alan Reid of Gardenworks you can even replant a lily. I am not sure I would be comfortable in doing so. I would probably choose another plant in that spot for a year or two.

### 2. **Toad Lily Virus** (This information comes from Fine Gardening August 2008 edition.)

Symptoms:

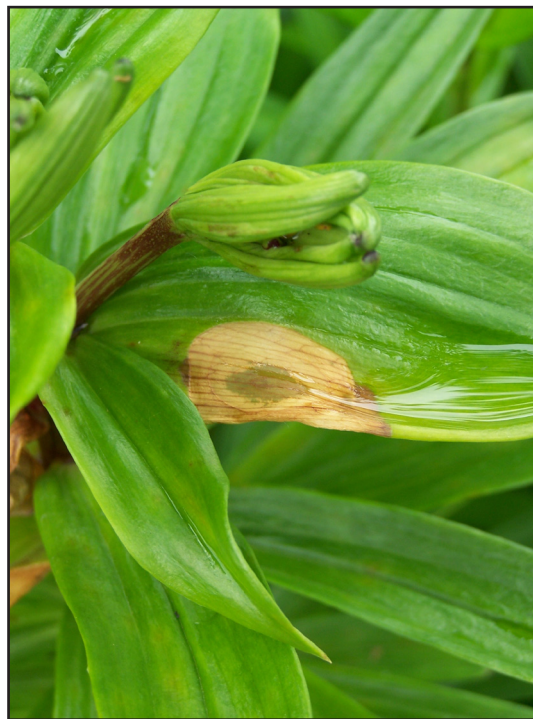
- \* Mottling/discolouration will appear on the blossoms. Instead of the regular sized spots, infected plants will have blotches of colour.

How It Spread:

- \* Early indications are that the virus is spread by insects.

What to Do:

- \* Remove the plants and dispose of them in the garbage.



## In Your Vege Patch

By Roy Pegler

This is the month that we have to keep on top of all the plants that we sowed or planted in the spring by keeping the weeds down, checking for slugs and bugs, and watering.

Vegetables for fall and winter harvesting—lettuce, broccoli, swiss chard, spinach, carrots and brussel sprouts— should be sown and planted this month.

Tomato plants need a lot of maintenance this time of the year. Make sure the vines are tied to their supports because they can be easily damaged. Using cloth or pieces of panty hose are the best. The tomato fruits should be tied above and below on the stem. Later in the season, about 30 days before the first frost, there is one last pruning chore. The plants must be topped, so the

fruit that has set is given every opportunity to mature. To this end remove all the growing tips, so all the carbohydrates produced by the tomato plant will go to the fruit. This final pruning can make all the difference between hard, green fruit hurriedly picked before frosts that later rot in a paper bag and ripe, red fruit enjoyed at the end of the season. You have to be tough and fight your nurturing instincts and top those plants.

After the cool weather in June, pollination may be a problem. Flowers will fall off without setting fruit, so lend a hand by tapping them gently a few times every time you pass. This helps loosen pollen and improve pollination, guaranteeing a good crop.

## From the Bookshelf

By Monica Mowart

I have bought a book called *The Complete book of Plant Propagation*. It helps de-mystify the propagation activity that some gardeners believe it to be, by demonstrating, how in fact it is a simple and useful technique, integral to good gardening practice.

I have ordered from Timber Press the following: 1. *The Jade Garden*, an authoritative guide to little know ornamental trees, shrubs and perennials from Asia—it is amazing how many plants we think are local or indigenous but actually come from China or Japan; 2. *Delphiniums*, the only book available on this classic garden plant; 3. *A Book of Blue Flowers*, this book provides a wide selection of flowers in the most uncommon hue that will help expand the range of colours in your garden.