

# Newsletter



## Carole's Compost

By Carole Forsythe

Despite the efforts of the many members who volunteered their time, skills and energy to the Plant Sale, the revenue generated was significantly lower than in recent years. Consequently, the budget will not be voted on tonight as it must be revised to reflect the decrease in our primary source of revenue.

Thanks to all of you who donated plants, divided and potted up plants, started and cared for seedlings, wrote plant tag after plant tag, circulated posters, transported plants, set up tables and displayed plants before sale day. And, while we could have used more volunteers to serve the 969 customers on sale day, those who volunteered went above and beyond what was expected of them. A special thanks goes to Audrey Barnes, the Plant Sale's mastermind and foremost volunteer.

Just why there was a drop in sales is a matter of conjecture. Perhaps the late spring meant fewer customers knew what they needed or wanted in their gardens because they hadn't spent much time in them. Maybe the lack of lawn signs at major intersections meant fewer gardeners knew about our Plant Sale. Possibly photographs of the plants would have enticed more purchases. Are there other explanations?

Come share your thoughts at my home on Saturday, May 31 at 10:30 a.m. or contact me beforehand. As Audrey breathes a sigh of relief that the Plant Sale is over for another year, planning for next year's Plant Sale begins *now!*

## At the Podium

By Aldina Isbister

Tonight: Brenda Faulk  
"Drought Tolerant Gardens  
& Xeriscaping"

Brenda Faulk is the owner of Tanglebank Country Gardens, a boutique nursery in Abbotsford established in 1996. In addition to a great variety of plants as well as outdoor garden art, pottery and accessories, it offers educational workshops and seminars and landscape design consultation. I recommend visiting the nursery's website, [www.tanglebank.com](http://www.tanglebank.com).

Brenda will talk about drought tolerant plants and xeriscaping. With ongoing concerns about water conservations, this is a timely topic.

Looking Ahead: June Meeting

## Garden Glory & Floral Art Show

Please see Show Schedule insert or contact Debra for more details.

## 75 Years and Counting

To plan and pull off the celebration of our 75th year in 2009, volunteers are essential. We invite new members to find out about the club's past as well as ensure its future.

At our special meeting in January, there was general agreement that the anniversary year be used to raise the profile of the NWHS in the wider community. With that goal in mind, members tossed around a number of ideas. We'll revisit these and add a few more before deciding where to pool our efforts. Join us for the first meeting of the Ad Hoc 75th Anniversary Committee.

**Auditorium, New Westminster Public Library, Tuesday, May 20th at 7 p.m.**

## Mark Your Calendar

Monday, May 19  
1 p.m.  
Concrete Stepping Stone  
Workshop  
Home of Micheline Ippersiel  
2014 8th Avenue, New  
Westminster  
Registration Required

Tuesday, May 20  
7 p.m.  
Ad Hoc 75th Anniversary  
Committee  
Auditorium, New  
Westminster Public Library

Sunday, May 25  
9:50 – noon  
First Meeting of  
NWHS Sketching Club  
Queen's Park Picnic Shelter

Sunday, May 25 1 p.m.  
Concrete Stepping Stone  
Workshop  
Home of Micheline Ippersiel  
2014 8th Avenue, New  
Westminster  
Registration Required

Tuesday, May 27  
7:30 p.m.  
NWHS Executive Committee  
Home of Monica Mowat  
720 5th Street, New  
Westminster  
RSVP 604-521-3906

Saturday, May 31  
10:30 a.m.  
NWHS Plant Sale Committee  
Home of Carole Forsythe  
807 Cherry Street,  
New Westminster



## Make Your Own Stepping Stones

Micheline Ippersiel is holding two workshops on making concrete stepping stones from rhubarb leaf castings. All you need to bring is a pair of wire cutters and a piece of plywood to carry your creation home. (If you're allergic to latex, bring your own rubber gloves as well.) Cost is \$10.

Space is limited to ten members per workshop. Sign up for one of the two dates, Monday, May 19th or Sunday, May 25th. Both workshops start at 1 p.m. and run for approximately one-and-a-half hours. Micheline's home is at 2014 8th Avenue, New Westminster. Sign up tonight!

## Raffle Winners

Like plant sales, raffle sales were down as well. Of course, there were still winners, the biggest winner being the students of Ecole Glenbrook Middle School, the recipients of our raffle. Proceeds in the amount of \$500 will be donated to the school's Parent Advisory Council towards their ongoing fundraising drive to build a climbing park on the school grounds.

Raffle prizes went to the following customers:

Framed photograph from The Frame Shop - Pat Harris  
Gardening books from Black Bond Books - Eileen Jang  
Gift certificate from Northwest Landscape & Stone Supply - Joan Hnedish  
Hanging Basket from Hong's Nursery - Michele Reid  
Hanging Basket from Leong's Nursery - Michelle Stronach  
Planted Container from GardenWorks at Mandeville - Pat Heidrich  
Propagation kit from Solar Greenhouse & Garden Supply - Joanne Geehan

Prizes were donated by the named merchants. We encourage you to identify yourself as a member of the NWHS when visiting their shops and thank them for their continued support of our raffle.

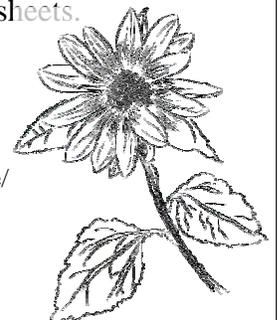
## Sketching Club – New Format

Merril Hall has used her enthusiasm, contacts and resources to create a fantastic opportunity for members who want to get to know plants better by learning how to sketch them. This year's program will run for 7 sessions, include 8 hours of professional instruction and culminate in an exhibition for all members. Space is limited to 12 people to provide an optimal teaching environment. Cost is only \$20.

Interested? Find Merrill tonight - by the fireplace - where she will have all the information and sign-up sheets. Join the club tonight!

Professional Instructors:  
Peri-Laine Nilan  
<http://peri-web.ath.cx/perisite/>

Jessie Couzelis  
<http://jessiecouzelis.com/>





## **“The Road to Garden Glory” or “Hints on How to Show”**

In May 2007 we had expert Margaret Nakahara supply us hints on “How to Show”. Margaret literally wrote the book on judging – and you can read it! The brand new, revised as of 2008, binder of Judging Standards was purchased from the BC Council of Garden Clubs and can be borrowed from the NWHS library. To help everyone prepare for this year’s show, here are the basic hints to remember when showing:

**Hint #1: Read the Show Schedule carefully!** Under each category there are guidelines as to what makes a complete entry. These must be followed or the entry will not be judged (NAS = Not According to Schedule). E.g. Pansies or violas must have 3 blooms per exhibit.

**Hint #2: Choose entries in Peak Condition:** Tour your garden, show schedule in hand, and look to see what blooms, fruits and vegetables you have that are at their best. Your choices should look crisp and sharp (not faded or wilted) with healthy foliage (if applicable) and straight stems. An entry in excellent condition will triumph over a larger exhibit that shows faults or damage (such as uneven colour, is misshapen or shows evidence of insects).

**Hint #3: Uniformity is Key:** The word “uniform” was used more then any other during Margaret’s talk. Items are uniform if they are the SAME. This can mean different things in different categories, but is always an important judging requirement. If the category calls for more then one item per entry, they should be as equal to each other as possible. E.g. Six strawberries that were identical to each other (but only medium sized) would score higher then an entry that included 3 larger strawberries, but also 3 others that did not match them. Uniformity can count in the appearance of a single item also: Is the colour the same through-out? Are all the petals similar to each other? Do they curl evenly?

**Hint #4: Presentation Counts:** Although your container itself is not being judged, how your entry is displayed can affect how it compares to another. Try to choose a plate or vase that is in proportion to your entry (not too big or too small) - and not so fancy that it distracts from the plant. Take the time to arrange your produce on the plate in a pleasing display – making sure to put the best side of your produce at the front! Use materials inside your vase to assist your blooms to stand at their straightest and put their best face forward.

**Hint #5: Keep entries fresh once they are picked/cut.** Stems should always be cut on an angle to allow maximum access of water to the stem. Blooms should be placed immediately in a bucket of warm (not cold!) water until ready to be arranged.

Have fun and good luck to everyone!

- Debra



### **Deadline Approaching for Nominations**

Nominate a worthy organization that needs seed money for a project that promotes one or more of the following:

- gardening or horticulture education
- horticulture research
- native plant habitat restoration
- community based garden projects

The Donations Committee will adjudicate applications received by Friday, May 16th and award up to **\$2000** in funding to one or more organizations. Pick up an application tonight or contact Carole and she'll e-mail you one.

## In Your Veggie Patch

By Roy Pegler

As this is the coldest spring on record, we are at least three weeks to a month behind in planting and sowing our vegetable gardens. Even the cold weather vegetables need warmer temperatures to grow. Hopefully this month the soil and air temperature will let us catch up. Don't be in a hurry to plant and sow summer crops. Wait until later this month or even into June. Tomatoes, especially, need temperatures in the higher teens.

Sow corn seed indoors in peat pots. Avoid disturbing their roots by transplanting the peat pots directly into the garden in June. To ensure good pollination, plant in blocks of four rows rather than a single one. Corn is a heavy feeder, particularly of nitrogen. Because of its shallow roots, it is sensitive to fluctuations in soil moisture. Therefore, water regularly and fertilize every two weeks with fish emulsion.

Knowing when to harvest corn is a bit tricky. A ripe ear of corn has a small amount of bending at the top with greenish silk near the top of the husk and dry brownish silk at the end. The best time to pick corn is early in the morning when it has the highest sugar content. Refrigerate or freeze it within an hour of picking. It will taste fantastic.

These are Alan Titmarsh's golden rules for tasty veggies.

- Make your own compost and use it generously when preparing the soil.
- Keep on top of regular routine jobs such as weeding, watering and feeding.
- Sow fast growing salad crops little by little and often to keep yourself stocked and to avoid gluts.
- Plant or sow small amounts of many different crops to keep your meals varied.
- Pick crops while they are small, tender and tasty so you enjoy them at their very best.
- Ask a neighbour to drop around while you're on holiday to keep crops watered. Encourage them to pick vegetables for their own use.

I think his advice is very good as it is easy to forget some of these jobs.

## On the Bookshelf

By Monica Mowat

Tracy Disabato-Aust's first book, *The Well Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques*, has sold more than 130 thousand copies since its original publication in 1996. It details and illustrates essential practices of perennial care such as deadheading, pinching, cutting back, thinning, disbudding and deadleafing. Of equal value is the A to Z encyclopedia of important perennial species. As one of the most frequently consulted books in my personal garden library, I recommend it as a companion in your quest for a beautiful, healthy and well maintained perennial garden.

### Super Spuds

Bringing world attention to the role the potato might play in providing food security and eradicating poverty, the United Nation has declared 2008 to be the International Year of the Potato. According to the International Potato Centre, 213 million tonnes are grown each year, making the potato the third most important food crop. If you want to know more about the humble spud, visit a potato museum. Pose for a photograph in the shadow of a 14 foot high potato sculpture during the Potato Blossom Festival in O'Leary, Prince Edward Island. Or, just visit their websites: [www.cipotato.org](http://www.cipotato.org), [www.peipotatomuseum.com](http://www.peipotatomuseum.com), [www.potatomuseum.com](http://www.potatomuseum.com). Donate your excess potatoes and other produce to **Plant A Row, Grow A Row** for the Food Bank. Call 604-526-4914 for more information.

### Contacts for This Issue

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### Feedback Encouraged

Questions, comments, ideas?  
Contact Carole.