

# Newsletter



## NWHS Christmas Party: *Join the Festivities*

**B**uy your tickets for the Christmas party tonight to avoid disappointment. This year, Silina Nakatsu is working with a new caterer, Cheers Restaurant, and has put together a wonderfully appetizing menu. Before dinner, do some Christmas shopping for local arts and crafts at the Gallery off the foyer. After dinner, stay awhile and enjoy a wide repertoire of Christmas carols and songs by NOEL, a local vocal trio (pictured).

As in past years, the seasonal crafts handmade by our talented members will be raffled off.



Proceeds of the raffle will be used to expand the YWCA Rooftop Food Garden. Its produce supplements the diets of women and children at the YWCA Crabtree Corner, a family resource centre in the Vancouver Downtown Eastside.

Once again, Audrey Barnes will test your Christmas trivia

knowledge with a mind boggling quiz. The stakes are higher this year so don't share your answers (or best guesses) with others. In addition to a huge poinsettia, a \$25 gift certificate from Cheers Restaurant and Catering is up for grabs. Hang on to your ticket because the same prize will be given away at the end of the evening as a door prize.

### Elves Needed

Free before the Christmas party? Start the party early! We need your assistance transporting raffle prizes from Audrey's home and in setting up the room to make it look festive before the festivities begin. Call Carole if you're available between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

## Tonight's Meeting

Tuesday, **November 4**, 7:30 p.m.  
**Ruth Olde**, from Blasig Design and Construction Ltd., is author of *Landscaping Made Easy by Design*. She has been designing and building residential landscapes for over 30 years. She offers practical advice and many photos to inspire and demonstrate her work.

## Future Meetings

Tuesday, **December 9**, 6:00 p.m.  
NWHS Christmas Party  
A buffet dinner featuring Christmas crafts, carols, shopping and prizes. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

### Feedback

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

### Date and Times

- Tuesday, December 9
- Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
- Buffet open 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Entertainment begins at 7:30 p.m.

### Odds and Ends

- Contact Carole to reserve a table by December 1
- Refunds available until December 1
- Fragrance is prohibited

### Ticket Information

- Limited number available
- On sale tonight and from Carole or Audrey afterwards
- Includes a buffet dinner, two tickets for wine, non-alcoholic beverages and entertainment
- \$18 for members
- \$27 for members' first guest
- \$36 for members' additional guests
- Sales cease December 4

### Motions to Mind

What's an Annual General Meeting without a few motions to consider? They are:

Be it resolved that the New Westminster Horticultural Society

- *amend* Part 2, Section 7b of the Constitution and Bylaws *to read* The annual dues shall be payable at the first general meeting of the calendar year. Those whose dues are not paid by the general meeting in May shall cease to be members.  
*from* Dues become payable at the first general meeting of the year. Anyone joining during the year will pay on a pro rata basis.
- allocate \$2000 from the 2009 budget to cover speakers' fees.
- allocate \$3000 from the 2009 budget to cover Plant Sale expenses.

If you would like a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, pick one up tonight. It will soon be available on our website.

### Enjoy the Library over the Holidays

Once more we are offering a seasonal treat to you. Since there is no library at our December meeting (a.k.a. the Christmas Party), you can sign out books this evening and enjoy them until our February meeting. Perfect for cozying up to the fireplace on those cold days. Just think of it as our Christmas present to you. Happy reading.

—Audrey Barnes

### 75th Anniversary Contest

For next year's promotion of our 75th anniversary, we want your help in coming up with a new logo and slogan. Just think, your design or slogan could appear on our T-shirts, newsletter and on the World Wide Web.

The new logo must include our name and a Pacific dogwood or *Cornus nuttallii*. The current slogan that appears under the logo is *Growing since 1934*. It's a good one and it certainly recognizes our 75th year. (That is, if you can do subtraction in your head.) Do you have a better one? E-mail your entry to Carole (carole.forsythe@shaw.ca) or drop it off at her home by Sunday, December 21. All entries will be the property of the New Westminster Horticultural Society. Winning entries will be awarded \$75.

### Container Contest Vote

The entries are in and they are posted on the wall. It is now your turn to help select the winner. During club business, ballots will be distributed. During the tea break, cast your vote for your favorite. Just write down its number and put your ballot in the bucket. Vote for only one container. After tonight's meeting, the ballots will be counted and the winner will be presented with a 2009 NWHS membership gift certificate at the December festivities. Good luck to all who entered. Thank you for the great container ideas.

Judging guidelines:

- Overall effect
- Colour combination
- Plant form/shape
- Suitability of plants for container
- Creativeness

—Audrey Barnes

### The Nominating Committee Report:

*The Search:* For the last few months, the nomination committee of Audrey Barnes, Anna Camporese and Rita Solkin has been comparing suggestions, checking the roster and contacting members regarding being on the 2009 NWHS Executive. Although, we have a full slate, we welcome last minute nominations from the floor. An election would be exciting.

*The Nominees for the 2009 NWHS Executive:*

Secretary: Mary Barnard

Treasurer: Rita Solkin

Show Chairperson: Debra Halbig

Members at Large: Audrey Barnes

Karen Low

Silina Nakatsu

Sharon Seki

Dan Tessaro

*Note:* President (Carole Forsythe, and Vice-President (Aldina Isbister) will be completing their two-year terms in 2009.

*Non-executive Participation:*

Many of those approached declined to be on the 2009 executive due to current personal time restraints. It was heartening to hear the words "ask me again in a year or two". These members know that there are always opportunities to be involved whenever their schedules allow. It is not necessary to be on executive. An open invitation is extended to all members: If a project comes up and you are interested in it or if you have skills which you would like to share, speak up. Talk to the project head, talk with the president or with any of the executive. Your rewards: new friendships, the satisfaction of contributing and awareness of belonging to a great group.

—Audrey Barnes



**U**nless you have just joined the club this past year, you know that November brings our Christmas craft sessions. If you have attended one of our past Christmas parties, you know the kind of items we create.

***What are the craft sessions?***

Though billed as craft sessions, they are in reality an excuse to socialize with a glue-gun in your hand. Every year, three weeks prior to the Christmas Party, members (non-members are welcome too) meet in Audrey's basement to socialize and create the raffle prizes for the Christmas Party. If you love "crafting" one-of-a-kind creations this is definitely the club social for you. You can create but not be stuck with "another thing I made" around your house. If one-of-a-kind crafting is not your thing, but you enjoy more routine work, why not drop in and share your skills? Most important, the sessions are great social events when three or four people are crafting and enjoying each other's company. We aim to create 50 exquisite prizes. Often a prize is the end result of participation by many people.

***When are the craft sessions?***

As stated above, craft sessions are three weeks prior to the Christmas Party. That means whenever you like between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.,

weekdays and weekends from Monday, November 17 to Sunday, December 7. Audrey is willing to arrange her schedule around the hours that you would like to come and work. That is, if you tell her when you would like to come. There is a calendar for signing up (name, phone number and the hours you prefer) on the date(s) you want to come. Or phone Audrey (604-526-8284) at least one day prior to the date you want to come. She will confirm about supper time the evening prior to the day you are expected. For these three weeks, she is willing to juggle her normal life around the hours you would like to make raffle prizes in the basement.

***Where are the craft sessions?***

The sessions are in Audrey's basement at 117 Seventh Avenue, New Westminster. Follow the pathway to the left of the house to the back and around deck to the basement door.

***What kinds of materials will we be using?***

It would be easier to list the materials not available. There is so much it is hard to fit it all into the basement. Your eyes will bulge at the amount of natural materials, ribbons, forms, baskets, picks, fake greenery, wire and glue guns. In the past some members have found they have spent a whole session just skulking out everything. Some materials, such

as the huge selection of cones, have been collected by members. Some, including the super ribbon, has been purchased by the club. And some have been donated by members. If you have any Christmas decorations you are tired of, or that just seem tired to you, drop them off at Audrey's back kitchen door where it is sheltered. (Not the exposed basement door, please.) You will be amazed by what can be created from them. Of course, crafting materials are always welcome. Fresh materials? We will be creating fresh wreaths and table centers in the last three days. We are always looking for holly, cedar and such at that time. It is best to talk with Audrey if you have greenery we can use.

***Fragrance?***

If you know Audrey, you know that to her *fragrance* is a bad word. She is one of growing number of unfortunate folk who experience severe negative reactions when exposed to natural or man-made fragrance. Please respect her health by not wearing fragrance to the crafting sessions or by donating fragrant items like scented candles. Of course, the fresh materials used near the end of the 3 weeks are the exceptions. They are in the basement only long enough to be incorporated into prizes.

—Audrey Barnes



## In Your Vege Patch: *Improve Next Year's Garden Now*

By Roy Pegler

If everything in your garden has gone as you had hoped, then planning next year's garden involves no more than following the plant rotation (see below) for your garden. If you're thinking about adding or dropping a vegetable or variety, now is a good time to make the decision so you can make proper preparations for the newcomers.

Many gardeners start planning for next year's garden in winter when the seed catalogues start arriving in the mail, or even later, when the seeds themselves arrive. But there are some very good reasons to do a lot of planning in the fall, right after the garden has been put to bed and the last frosted remnants have been consigned to the compost pile. Many vegetable plants have preferred soil requirements and if you can start the biological processes to fulfill those requirements your plants will reward you come harvest time.

### **Asparagus**

For such a skinny little vegetable, asparagus is hungry all the time. To supply this plant with the nutrients it needs, apply an inch (2.5 cm) of compost to the bed

in the fall and cover it with straw mulch to protect the asparagus roots from the cold.

### **Carrots**

If you decide in fall where next year's carrot patch will be, you can increase the chances for a terrific, good-tasting harvest by adding some autumn leaves, or even better leaf mold to those beds. Just spread the leaves over the bed and chop them into the soil with a hoe. Soil creatures, such as earthworms, will spend the winter working on the leaves, breaking them down and liberating their nutrients for use by the carrots next summer.

### **Cabbage Family Crops**

If club root has attacked any of your cabbage family crops (Brussel sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and kale), add lime or wood ashes in the beds where they will be next year. These amendments raise the Ph to a neutral 7.0 or even slightly up to an alkaline level.

### **Bettering Your Beds Now**

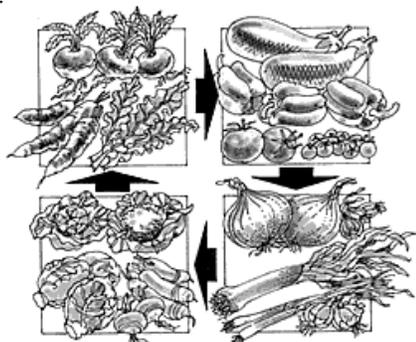
Leaves are one of the best *free* materials for improving your garden. Chop in a layer several

inches thick, water it down to get the biological activity going and then top it off with a thick layer of straw and water it down as well. A good mulch insulates



the soil which either keeps it from freezing, or keeps it from freezing as deeply or as quickly as it otherwise would. Moderating freezing allows the worms in particular to go on working the soil for much longer than they otherwise could and when the freezing temperatures do invade the soil, the mulch slows the freezing process allowing worms time to migrate deeper in to the earth, instead of being caught by a sudden cold spell and freezing to death.

Enhancing your soil and mulching your beds are two actions you can take now to ensure a bountiful harvest next year.



## **Plant Rotation, a.k.a. Crop Rotation**

Crop rotation is a system of planting vegetables where you sow or plant different crops in different places each year. This is to reduce soil-borne diseases, such as club root and potato blight, and maintain soil nutrients as different crops take different nutrients out of the soil. Crop rotation is usually done in a three or four year cycle.