



October is Silent Auction

The October meeting is the Annual NWHS Silent Auction. Members donate unwanted—but good—items to the auction for others to bid on and take home. The proceeds go to the club coffers. Many members consider the silent auction to be the most fun meeting night of the year. Even if you don't bid on the offerings, the evening is great for people watching.

The silent auction meeting is different than other meetings: there is no speaker; it's a "members only" evening—and, no, we will not issue new memberships that night; seating is limited as the room is full of auction items on display; and instead of the usual "refreshment break", the beverages and goodies will be available throughout the meeting in the kitchen.

How the Silent Auction Works **Donating Your Items**

If you have a lot of items, you might consider dropping them off at Audrey's back kitchen door (NOT the carport, NOT the basement door) for processing before the meeting. The deadline for such deliveries is the Sunday prior the meeting. If you have only a few items for the auction, come to the meeting early to get them "processed". This means, getting the bidding slip filled out with a brief description and minimum bid and the item placed in the appropriate area. All items

have a minimum bid 25¢. If you have several small items you might want to combine them into one auction item.

What kind of items are wanted

Usually we have plants, tools, books, baking, preserves, produce, small furniture pieces, linen, dishes, ornaments, craft items, toys, Christmas and Halloween decorations, pictures, frames, plant pots, small appliances. This list is non-exclusive. We prefer not to have clothing unless something like a hat or scarf. Remember, very large items are not appropriate as people will be taking the items home after the meeting. When donating, you can specify a minimum bid and you can retain ownership of the item if the bid is not matched. Otherwise, any left over goods will be donated to charity.

Bidding

To place a bid, first get your "bidder number" from the treasurer's table. On the bidding slip, write that number on the left side and your bid amount on the right side. If you are the first to bid, your bid can be equal to the minimum bid. Subsequent bids are to be done in multiples of 5¢ i.e. in increases of 5, 10, 15 and so forth. No penny increases please.

At the end

Five minute warning will be given

Tonight's Meeting

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

Dianne Gaines

"A to Z of Bulbs"

Dianne Gaines is the Packaging and Special Programs Coordinator of the Van Noort Bulb Co. in Langley. She will bring bulbs to sell.

Future Meetings

Tuesday, **October 14**, 7:30 p.m.

Silent Auction

Tuesday, **November 4**, 7:30 p.m.

Ruth Olde is author of

Landscaping Made Easy by Design and owns Blasig Landscape. 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.

before the end of the auction. When the auction is declared over all members, except auction volunteers, leave the bidding area. The volunteers highlight the last bid made and that is the winning bid. Once the volunteers are finished, member can go check if they had the winning bid. Auction winners collect their items, have their winning bids tallied and then proceed to the cashier. Cash (Small bills are nice.) and cheques payable to NWHS are accepted.

Carole's Compost — By Carole Forsythe

Carole's Compost (Literally)

A few years ago, we acquired a second compost bin. My husband, tired of my lackadaisical attitude towards compost maintenance, believed he could produce a better compost than I could and challenged me to prove him wrong. Well, he won hands down. I rarely mixed the contents of the bin, added too much green material and not enough brown (or was it the other way around). At the end of the summer, my bin was a wet, smelly mess that supported a small country of fruit flies.

However, you might say that I was the real winner of the contest as I bear no responsibility for aerating, layering or sifting the compost bins any longer. Neither do I transport the kitchen scraps into the bin outside. Still, the smug look on his face bugs me.

The summer edition of gardening life included a brilliant recipe from last month's speaker, Sharon Hanna. Here's my version of her recipe for the Compost Burrito. Share it with your friends, especially those with smug husbands.

1. Evenly sprinkle vegetable and fruit trimmings onto a double layer of newspaper.
2. Roll contents up burrito style.
3. Put "burrito" into kitchen compost bin.
4. When the bin is full, inform husband that it is ready to be added to the bin in the garden. If raining, you may wish to provide an umbrella.
5. Before returning bin to its place on the kitchen counter, request husband to wash and dry it. Often, this is where the recipe fails. Perhaps if I had Sharon's recipe earlier, I would be the one with the smug look on my face.

November Meeting Date Change - Make Note

This year, the second Tuesday of the month falls on Remembrance Day. So that each of us may remember those that served on our behalf, we will be meet on the first Tuesday of the month: November 4.

Christmas Already?

Yes, Virginia, it is time to start thinking about your Christmas social calendar. Tickets for the Christmas party will go on sale at next month's meeting at which time their cost for members and guests will be announced. In the meantime, block off the evening of Tuesday, December 9.

Yet Another Election This Fall

With the exception of President and Vice President, every position on the executive is up for grabs, including treasurer, secretary, show chair and five members-at-large. Consider giving your time, energy and skills to the New Westminster Horticultural Society. In return, you'll have some fun and make some friends. (Salary, expense account, pension and travel are not included in this offer.) Call Audrey or Rita, the two past presidents that make up the nominating committee, with your questions or concerns.

Leaving a Legacy of Roses

Tonight, we'll discuss and vote on the following motion:

To both commemorate the 75th anniversary of the New Westminster Horticultural Society and to acknowledge our long and fruitful relationship with the City of New Westminster, celebrating its 150th year, the New Westminster Horticultural Society will contribute \$2000 in 2009 towards the purchase of roses and signage for the restored rose garden in Queen's Park.

Due Date Looming

The deadline for entering your photographs for the container and the photography contests is fast approaching. Hand them in at the next meeting on Tuesday, October 14 or drop them off at Carole's or Audrey's home beforehand. Contest details are found in last month's newsletter.

Contacts This Issue

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QUEENSBOROUGH FAIR — Hopping Good Time



Julia Goulden volunteering at the NWHs booth in 2006.

Photo: Audrey Barnes

If you want a day at a good old-fashioned, country fair, the Queensborough Urban Farmers' Fall Fair is for you. This year's theme is frogs, so you can expect to have a hopping good time.

The club has been a long time supporter of the fair and has many volunteer opportunities. Pitching in and contributing what you can—materials, skills, knowledge or willing hands—makes the whole event more fun for everyone. You can really get to know other NWHs members by getting involved in this type of “non-meeting” club experience. There are sign-up sheets for all volunteer positions.

There many ways to help:

Loan us props for the displays.

Do you have any old gardening or farming tools, a scarecrow, a bumper crop of squash or other vegetables, sunflowers or other flowers, cornstalks, trimmings from your fall pruning? We need lots of harvesty vegetation. All items will be returned to you if

you want them back. If you like, we will donate your produce to Plant a Row, Grow a Row. Audrey's lane carport at 117 Seventh Ave will be the receiving depot for props. If an item is of value or you want the produce back, give it to Audrey personally. If you have froggy items, that would be terrific.

Help with the transport of materials. There will be a lot of stuff, much of it bulky, to take to the fair site for set-up at 11:30 a.m., Saturday and from the site at for tear-down starting at 4:00 p.m., Sunday. If you have a roomy vehicle, a truck or a trailer, we sure could use you and your vehicle!—either day, or for both.

Decorate on a grand scale. Express your artistic tendencies with the group doing the entrances and stage displays or the group doing the NWHs booth display. Work will start at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday with final touching up at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Help create the NWHs booth. Our booth's theme is “Keeping

Sunday, September 21

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Queensborough Community Ctr
Adults \$3, Children & Seniors \$2
(children under 3 free)

All proceeds go to the
Queensborough

Special Projects Program.

your plants from croaking.” We have some ideas but would like yours as well. Talk with Carole or Audrey. We will be making posters, (are you good at printing and drawing?).

Volunteer at the NWHs booth on Fair Day. Even if you are available only for an hour or two, please sign-up. This gives the “all-dayers” time to check out the other action. We'll be selling plants and taking donations to Plant a Row, Grow a Row. Our booth is a perfect spot to view the stage. On the sign-up sheets please put your name, phone number, email (if you have it) and what hours you would like to work.

Help with the competitions. From 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. on Fair Day, we receive the competition entries and organize them on the exhibit tables. The club also coordinates judging of competition and tabulations. If you are good at clerical tasks and would like a sit-down job for a couple of hours, perfect! As this is Audrey's area of responsibility on the fair committee, she will be extra grateful for your help.

Enter the competitions. Check out the categories and plan your entries use the available schedule and entry forms. Remember, as NWHs members, there are no entry fees for you. The club will pay them on your behalf. Audrey will accept early entries (only non-perishable items and before Saturday, September 29th,). Talk nicely with her and she will probably be willing to pick them up at fair closing as well.

In Your Vege Patch: *Harvesting for Flavour*

By Roy Pegler

The old saying “the more you take the more you get” goes for many veggies.

Carrots are a prime example. They are tasty from the time they’re as big as your little finger to when they’re full-sized, so carrot harvest time spans most of the summer. The flavour and nutritional value of carrots changes over time: baby carrots taste better, but big carrots are more nutritious. Beans are another vegetable that benefits from frequent and constant harvesting. Most beans that were too small yesterday, may be too big tomorrow, making it’s harvest time today, and today only. If I want good beans I pick all the ripe ones every day.

Salad radishes start tasting good to me as soon as they’re the size of little marbles, but when they’re the size of big marbles they’re a day or two away from splitting open and becoming infested with root maggots.

During the warm summer months try to harvest radishes before this happens and store them in the refrigerator. They keep better there than they do in the ground; they keep longer and their flavour is better. In the cooler weather of spring and fall radishes prefer being in the ground.

I harvest the winter squash after the first frost and before storing I wipe them with bleach and store in a cool, dark room. It is quite safe to leave parsnips,

Brussels sprouts, leeks and carrots in the ground until you need them. Swiss chard will last in the ground until December. Corn should be harvested and either eaten the same day or frozen within an hour of harvesting to get the best taste in the winter.

This month's planting

Don't forget to plant your garlic cloves this month, around about the 20th of the month. Broad beans can also be sown this month.

Tomatoes Still on the Vine

Hopefully the tomatoes will ripen on the vine this month. To help them ripen deadhead the tops and any flowers then strip most of the leaves so the sun will get to the green tomatoes.

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, **September 13**

9:00 a.m.

Meet at Centennial Lodge in Queen's Park for Carpooling 11:00 a.m.

Tour of Minter Gardens and Country Garden

RSVP

Instead of doing countless mundane chores on Saturday, September 13, take a horticultural tour of Minter Gardens at 11:00 a.m. We'll then head off to Brian Minter's Country Garden to purchase plants for autumn colour for our own gardens.

Admission to Minter Gardens is \$11.50. If you'd like to partake in the buffet lunch, add an extra \$15.75. Aldina will collect cash or cheques made out to the New Westminster Horticultural Society tonight. Contact Aldina

to arrange carpooling from Centennial Lodge.

Tuesday, **September 16**

7:30 p.m.

NWHS Regular

Executive Committee Meeting

Home of Aldina Isbister

4237 Sardis Street, Burnaby

RSVP

Thursday, **September 18** and

October 2

3:00 to 7 p.m.

Royal City Farmers Market

Tipperary Park, New Westminster

Sunday, **September 21**

10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Queensborough Urban Farmers Fall Fair

Queensborough Community Centre

Saturday, **October 4**

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

BC Council of Garden Clubs

555 Slocan Street, Burnaby

Join us on Saturday, October 5th at the meeting of the BC Council of Garden Clubs. Speakers will address the topics of green roof technology and pruning. To take advantage of the subsidy, reserve your spot with Carole by Friday, September 19. Lunch is included in the \$15 registration fee.

Feedback

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