

New Westminster Horticultural Society

Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

April 2009

PLANT SALE

Lend A Helping Hand

The NWHS Plant Sale depends on the time, energy, talent and plants of its members. Every little bit counts.

There is still work to be done in the yard. Plants need to be divided, potted, watered, groomed and priced. Not up to yardwork? If you've got legible printing, help with labelling plants. Contact Audrey at sgbarnes@telus.net or 604-526-8284 to let her know when you're available.

We need many, many fit bodies the Saturday night before the main event to prepare for it. We'll be moving thousands of plants from the yard and one hundred tables on site. Volunteers get the first crack at buying plants.

Just in case you forgot, the Plant Sale itself is on Sunday, May 3rd from 10 am to 4 pm. Help is needed from 8:30 in the morning until 5:30 in the afternoon. Choose a shift and a job. There are snacks for everyone and lunch for those who work all day. Best of all, volunteers don't have to stand in line to purchase plants!

Sign up tonight or contact Carole Forsythe at carole.forsythe@shaw.ca or 604-515-1927.

AT THE PODIUM

Tonight's Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 pm

Incorporating Native Plants into Our Gardens presented by Barry Belec.

May's Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 7:30 pm

The Value and Benefits of Trees

Susan M. Murray is an arborist, a faculty member with the School of Horticulture at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and an author of several books, including the recently published *Our Sylvan Heritage: Guide to the Magnificent Trees of the South Fraser*.

June's Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 7:30 pm

Celebrating 75 Years of Gardening

A members-only, ticketed event held in conjunction with our June Show.

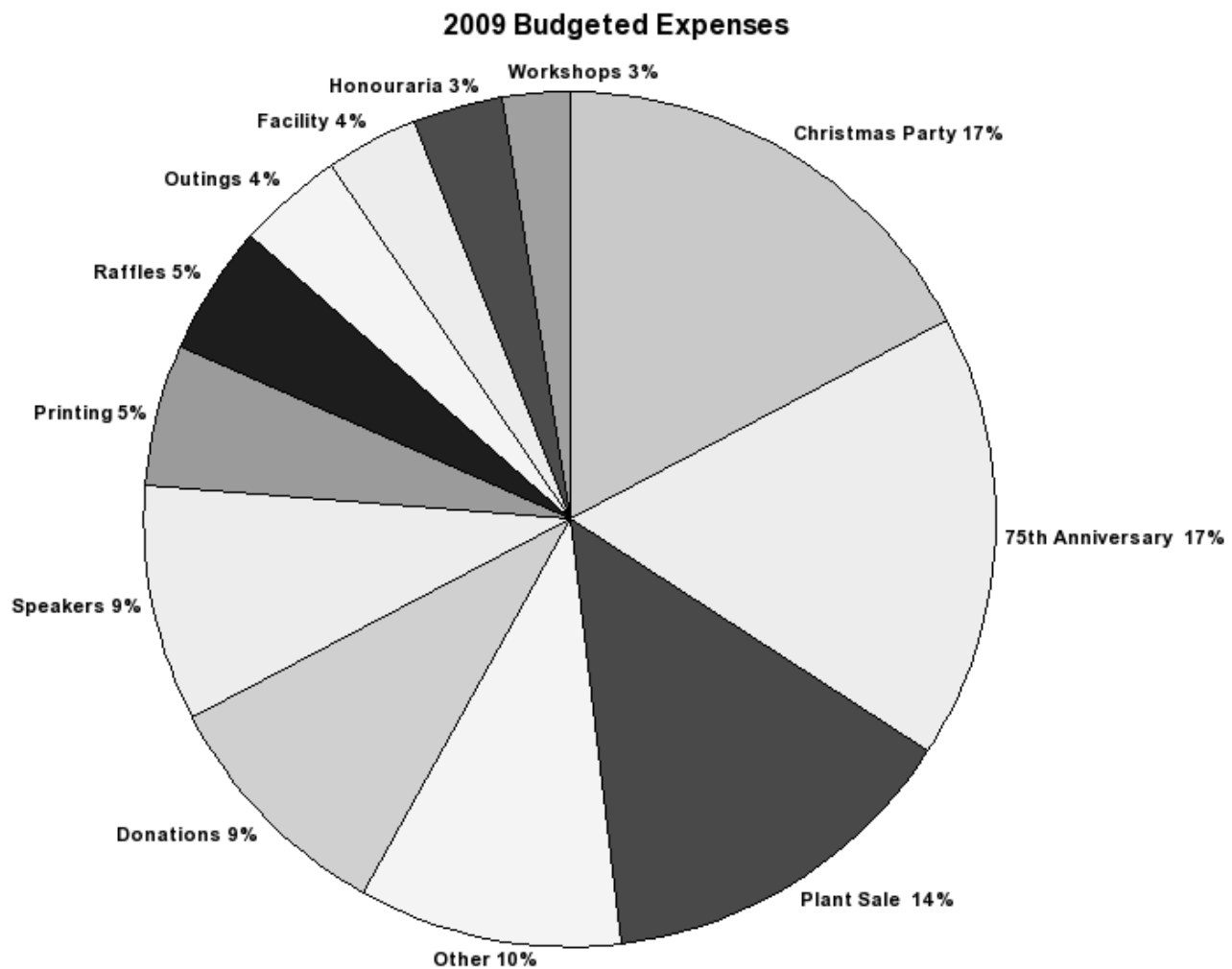
FINANCIAL ROOTS by Carla Sharp

As of March 31, our financial position is as follows:

Chequeing Account	\$12,000.87
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	\$9,080.92
Petty Cash	\$45.00
Month End Total	\$21,126.79

The 2009 first quarter year-to-date financial statements will be available at our next meeting. If you are interested in receiving a copy beforehand, please contact me at carsbar@telus.net or 604-540-4067.

2009 BUDGET



TREASURE HUNT by Carla Sharp

The NWHS is looking for an auditor in a voluntary capacity to review the 2009 financials in January of next year. An auditor is an accountant that is registered for private practice. If you meet these criteria or know of an individual who does, please contact me at carsbar@telus.net or 604-540-4067.

Members Only

As of March 31, we are 170 members strong. For those of you who haven't renewed your membership yet, do so tonight to continue receiving its benefits.

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In conjunction with our June Show, we'll be officially celebrating our 75th anniversary. It's a members only, ticketed event. Unfortunately, the occupancy load limit for Centennial Lodge is 135 people. So, while tickets are free, they are limited and will, therefore, be issued on a first come, first served basis. Tickets are available Wednesday, May 6th. Contact Carole Forsythe at carole.forsythe@shaw.ca or 604-515-1927.

OUT AND ABOUT

Hardscaping with Stone

Thinking about building a natural stone wall, column, path or stairs in the near future? Whether you do-it-yourself or hire a contractor, you'll find this outing informative. Sign up tonight or at our meeting in May.

Saturday, May 23, 9 am

Northwest Landscape & Stone Supply

5883 Byrne Road, Burnaby

Contact Carole Forsythe at carole.forsythe@shaw.ca or 604-515-1927.

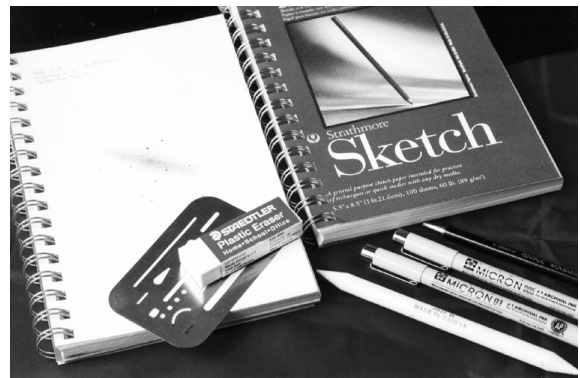
WORKSHOPS

Art in the Garden by Merrill Hall

Join me on Saturday mornings and turn your garden into a work of art. Sharing each others' knowledge, we'll take turns leading a sketching exercise. If the weather does not cooperate, studio space in Centennial Lodge will be provided by the Arts Council of New Westminster. No cost. Just drop in.

Saturdays, starting April 25, 10 am

Bandstand, Queen's Park



For those with some painting and drawing experience, a two day course on basic acrylic painting will be taught by Angela Au Hemphill. This workshop is open to members only and is limited to 15. A course outline is available.

Monday and Tuesday, July 6th and 7th, 9:30 am to 4 pm

Centennial Lodge, Queen's Park

\$TBA for members only

Sign-up for one or both workshops tonight or contact me at merrilhall@shaw.ca or 604-526-4324.

PLANT SALE ON FILM

Take a photograph or two of the preparation for the Plant Sale or of the Plant Sale itself from the perspective of a volunteer and/or customer. Capture the crowds, the ardent gardeners searching for unusual specimens, the children pleased with their choices or the scene that captures your attention. Bring your photographs to our meeting in May or e-mail them to Debra Halbig at halbig@gmail.com by Sunday, May 10th and she'll print them for you.

APPOINTED

Carole Forsythe was elected at the Annual General Meeting of the BC Council of Garden Clubs to its Scholarship Trust Fund Committee for a term of three years. She brings her background in award adjudication and fundraising in post-secondary education to the position.

THE GARDENER'S HYMN submitted by Gordon Mackintosh

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

And what we never mention,
Though gardeners know it's true,
Is when He made the goodies,
He made the baddies too.

The fly that gets the carrots,
The wasp that eats the plum,
How black the gardener's outlook,
Though green may be the thumb.

But still we gardeners labour,
Midst vegetables and flowers,
And pray what hits our neighbours,
May somehow bypass ours.

Wanted: NWHS Memorabilia

Help us celebrate our 75th anniversary by lending us your best photographs and newspaper clippings.

Bring them to the May meeting, or e-mail files to Debra.

All items will be carefully digitized and returned.



GET A SHOT IN THE ARM

When was your last tetanus vaccination? Can't remember? Then it's time to get a booster shot to build protective antibodies in your system. *Clostridium tetani*, the bacteria that causes tetanus, lives and thrives in soil. Should it enter your body, it produces a potentially deadly neurotoxin. And, while it can be treated with antibiotics and a booster shot if found early, why take the chance?

NWHS Photography Contest 2009: Change of Focus



My 3 Seasons:

Three individual photos showing the same subject in three different seasons of the year.

Slight variations on our 3 yearly categories:

Visitors in the Garden:

May include humans, animals, insects, gnomes...but must be in your own garden.

A Colour in the Garden - YELLOW:

Best capture of the colour yellow in any garden. Photo must be taken in 2009.

View of a **NWHS** Garden:

Photo must be of your own - or another member's - garden.

Want more information?
Pick up the Contests Pamphlet.
or contact Debra Halbig. halbig@gmail.com

Container Contest 2009: "Start to Finish"



Share the magic of a mature container by showing its humble beginnings.

Take a photo of your containers when they are freshly planted, then

another when they look their best! Enter both photos at the October meeting. Voting will take place in November. We are excited to see what you are growing this year!

Remember to take your "start" photo!



IN YOUR VEGGIE PATCH

Potatoes by Roy Pegler



Us veggie growers hope the weather will be warmer this month. As it is, the growing season is two to three weeks late in coming. When the daffodils and dandelions bloom, it is time to plant potatoes. Home grown potatoes are delicious -- much tastier than store bought ones. Plus, you can grow potato varieties, commercial producers just don't grow. It's a food with all the virtues one could ask for -- easy to grow, long lasting, inexpensive, nutritious and tasty, especially with butter or sour cream.

Prevent pests and diseases by starting with a few simple precautions. Purchase certified disease free seed potatoes. They are available from nurseries, feed stores and by mail order. The selection is diverse -- you can buy a rainbow of potatoes from yellow to red to blue. Don't use potatoes purchased from supermarkets as they may carry diseases and are often treated with chemicals.

Cut large tubers into pieces about one-and-a-half inches thick, making sure each piece contains at least two eyes. The eyes should be just beginning to sprout, but not so much that a stem has formed. To guard against fungal diseases and ward off potato beetles, toss the pieces into a paper bag with a handful of agricultural sulphur. To heal the cut potatoes, place them in a well ventilated area at about 13 degree Celsius for one or two days.

Enrich the soil with compost, not manure, which can increase the incidence of potato scab. Plant in trenches three inches deep and one foot apart. Cover the tubers with two inches of soil and add another two inches when the sprouts are about three inches tall. Potatoes have shallow roots and are, therefore, sensitive to changes in soil moisture. Keep the plants well watered from the time they flower until two weeks before harvesting.

Harvest 90 to 120 days after planting. Harvest "new" potatoes when vines start to flower. For storage, harvest potatoes when the foliage turns yellow to brown. Water the plants for the last time, wait a week and then cut away the vines. This sets or hardens the skins so they won't peel or bruise too easily.

For long storage, keep potatoes in a cool, dark, well ventilated location. If too warm, they are likely to sprout. In these conditions, potatoes keep for three to six months. Warning -- before cooking, cut off green portions as they are poisonous.

I would be happy to answer your questions about growing potatoes or other vegetables in your garden. Contact me at 604-520-6467.

FEEDBACK

Do you have a question, comment or idea regarding the NWHS? Contact Carole Forsythe at carole.forsythe@shaw.ca or 604-515-1927.