



September is Bring to Share

Make sure you take advantage of next month's Bring to Share. It's an opportunity for members to ask a gardening question, to share their garden successes or new discoveries. Upon arrival, just sign in. Then display your "exhibits" on the tables and check what others have brought in. As with last September, the club will be treated to a display of the NWHS Sketching Group artwork as part of the Bring to Share. All who bring something for the tables will be eligible for participation prizes.

Club Outing - August 19th

See two of Vancouver's gardens in the sky—the Convention Center's green roof, the way of the future; the YWCA's roof top produce garden, feeding Downtown East-side women and children—on August 19th.



Convention Centre Green Roof 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.

Meet at the Burrard Street Entrance, at the foot of Burrard, at 5:30. Our guide will be the landscape architect, Bruce Hemstock, who was part of the team responsible for the roof. Bruce will also be speaking on green roofs at our September meeting. Many of you saw Bruce's personal garage green roof on the Tour last month.

We will then walk over to the YWCA at 535 Hornby Street and meet at the front entrance before going up to the 5th floor to see the ...

YWCA Roof top Garden 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Ted Cathcart and Juliana Pasko will be our guides.

This is your chance to see where our 2008 Christmas party raffle money went, as this worthwhile cause was the recipient. This garden in the Vancouver skyline provides healthy, nutritious food to woman and children in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Sign up tonight and for further information contact Anna Camporese.

Tonight's Meeting

Maria Keating

**"Nature Knows Best:
Discovering Beneficial Insects
in your Home Garden"**

Maria has been working with insects for the last 13 years. She will discuss our pollinators, processors, and native predators and give natural pest control advise to the home gardener.

Future Meetings

Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Bruce Hemstock
"Green Roofs"

Bring to Share

Tuesday, October 13, 7:30 p.m.

Silent Auction (no speaker)

Contest entries due.

Contacts This Issue

Audrey Barnes

audrey@newwesthortsociety.org

Anna Camporese

anna@newwesthortsociety.org

Carla Sharp

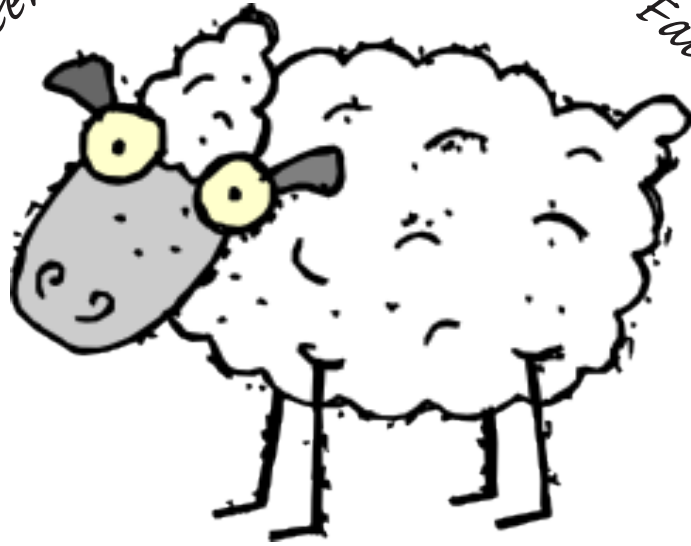
carla@newwesthortsociety.org

Sharon Seki

sharon@newwesthortsociety.org

The Queensborough Urban Farmers' Fall Fair:

It's Baaack



Mark Sunday, September 20th on your calendar. That is Fair Day. New hours this year: 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You won't want to miss the opportunity to attend this full day of family fun.

If you want to really enjoy the fair, get an insider's view by volunteering for one of the club's many activities. Besides our Plant Sale and Farmers' Market, this is where the club shows its public face.

How can you help? Volunteer in the following areas:

1. Be on the committee to plan the club's booth display and educational component. Usually our club's display is based on an educational gardening theme derived from the Fair's overall theme. This year the theme is "Sheep". We haven't selected our display theme yet, however some suggestions have been "Xeriscaping" (using woolly plants) or "Getting Baaack to the Basics" (Vegetable Gardening). Got a better idea?
2. Volunteer to be Booth Coordinator. We need someone to oversee the whole club display.
3. We also need lots of volunteers for our booth. People to help set it up and to represent the club at the booth throughout Fair Day.
4. Creating the Fall Harvest Displays throughout the Fair: Creative types needed here! This also involves collection of props and vegetation.
5. Enter the Fair Competitions: Pick up a Competitions Schedule and plan your entries now. Take advantage of the "no entry fee for NWHS members".
6. Help Audrey receive and process the competition entries. Audrey is Head of Competitions and will need lots of help early on Fair Day.
7. Help transport display materials to the site for set-up (Saturday) and/or from the site after tear-down (Sunday)

Ask Audrey if you have questions. She is very experienced with all aspects of the club's past participation and is very willing to give solicited advice. Many display items for use at the fair are stored with her. The carport will be available as a transfer station.

Sign-up starts tonight. Lots more details next month.

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, **August 19**
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Roof Garden Tour of Convention Ctr & YWCA
Meet at 5:30 p.m. at Centre's Burrard Street entrance at the foot of Burrard.
For YWCA Tour only meet at 6:30 at 535 Hornby.

Tuesday, **August 25**
7:00 p.m.

NWHS Regular
Executive Committee Meeting
Home of Sharon Seki
RSVP

Thursday, **September 3**
3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Royal City Farmers Market NWHS Booth
Tipperary Park,
NewWestminster
Want to volunteer at our booth?
Contact Anna or Audrey.

Tuesday, **September 8**
NWHS General Meeting

Sunday, **September 13**
Garden Tool Sharpening Workshop
Registered Participants Only

The Club is Growing Like a Weed

We used to think of the NWHS as "just a little garden club", but we are now 214 members— we had seven new members join last month alone. Welcome all.

Changes to the Photo, Container and "My Three Seasons" Contests

There has been some slight revisions in the contests. Explicit rules for the contests will be on the bulletin board and on our website.

Photo Contest:

In October, members are invited to enter three (3) photos in each of the following categories. Photos must have been taken since October 1st, 2008.

1. Visitors in the Garden: May include humans, animals, insects, gnomes... (something living or a representation of something living). Photo must be taken in your own garden.
2. A Colour in the Garden—Yellow: Best capture of the colour yellow in any garden.
3. View of a NWHS Garden: Photo must be of a member's garden.

Container Contest:

Although "Start to Finish" was a great concept, it eliminated many great containers that members have created such as perennial containers. We are reverting to just one photo and your plant list. If you do have the starting photo too, it would be interesting and may just be the tie-breaker.

"My Three Seasons" Contest:

Since the purpose of this contest was to share how a part of your garden can be multi-season, it seemed better that this contest not be part of the photo contest. It will be judged in November by membership vote—as is the container contest. Your entry must be three (3) individual photos showing the same subject in three different seasons.

Garden Tools Sharpening Workshop

Two, hands-on, sharpening workshops will be held on Sunday, September 13th, 10:00 a.m. to noon, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., in Audrey Barnes backyard. Each workshop is limited to 15 participants, so you must sign-up in advance. See Sharon Seki at tonight's meeting for sign-up sheet. The cost is \$7 to reserve your spot. Deadline to register is August 31st.

From the Treasurer: Carla Sharp

1) Financial Roots

As of July 31, 2009, our financial position is as follows:

Chequeing Account	\$
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	\$
Petty Cash	\$
Month End Total	\$

In Your Vege Patch — *Swiss Chard: One of the Easiest Vegetables*

By Roy Pegler

August is one of the busiest months of the year. Problem is keeping up with the harvesting of all the crops, like tomatoes and beans plus digging up the spuds. Then after that, it's time to plant the fall crops such as lettuce, dwarf peas, broccoli, cauliflower, leeks, spinach and Swiss chard.

Swiss chard is one of the easiest vegetables to sow or plant and is virtually indestructible. Though it's closely related to beets, this plant is grown not for its root but for its succulent stalks and tangy leaves. If the soil is workable you can sow or plant Swiss chard anytime and the stalks can be, in most cases, ready in eight weeks and can produce up to a year if it's a mild winter.

The best soil for Swiss chard is fertile, well-drained, sandy or clay loam. When to plant? For summer and fall crops, sow seeds

in spring two to four weeks before the last frost date. Since chard can survive in cold and mild winters, it can be planted now for late fall and winter harvesting. Spring or fall sow seeds half an inch deep, one to two inches apart, in rows spaced 18–30 inches apart. Thin seedlings to 12 inches apart.

To harvest, tear off outer stalks near the base, allowing central stalks and leaves to grow. If you want to use the whole plant, slice it off a couple of inches above the ground, new leaves will eventually sprout. Harvesting can start 50–60 days after sowing seeds. Harvest the first greens as you thin the seedlings.

Keep soil moist and weed regularly and that is about all there is to growing Swiss chard.



Another Successful Club Tour and Picnic

Weather-wise, it was probably the best touring

day in years. Sunny but not overly hot—perfect. Great gardens too: Many thanks to members (and non-members) who opened their gardens: Manny & Sally Fernandes, Steve Grover & Susan Dawkins, Lisa Escalante (and sidekick, Diane), Merrill Hall, Lisa Hudkins



and Bruce Hemstock—and, of course, Ellen & Nes Berg who once again hosted the picnic. You made our day. Good Show! (Lots of good ideas, too). Congratulations to Lesia Gojda who once again has her name on the Garden Stumps Trophy with a high score of 10/20.

Picnic Salad Recipes Wanted

At the picnic there were three salads that I would love to get the recipes for if possible. One was a creamy cauliflower salad, the second had chickpeas in it and the third also had chickpeas and dill and was creamy. If you would be willing to share please contact Mary Barnard at mary@newwesthortsociety.org.