

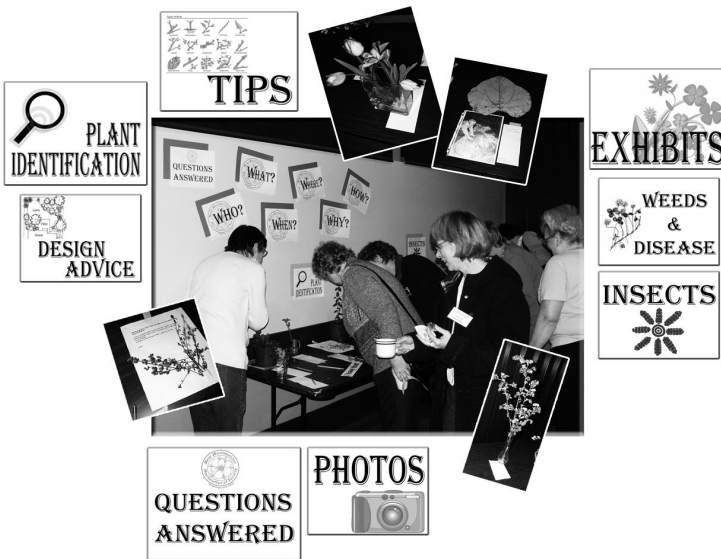


BRING TO SHARE

Share Our Gardens, Share Ourselves

by Debra Halbig

Every member has gardening knowledge and experiences to share. Challenges faced by one are often faced by others. Questions bring answers. Sharing promotes camaraderie. Success provides inspiration for all.



Bring to Share is your opportunity to share your garden with fellow members. All you need to know is in the title. For our next meeting, bring to share

- mystery plants
- blooms
- foliage
- captured insects,
- examples of insect or disease damage
- magazine articles
- photographs
- flower arrangements

Contact Debra Halbig at 604-618-8648 or halbigs@shaw.ca with your questions.

AT THE PODIUM

Tonight's Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 pm

What Does the Future Hold for Horticulture?

A conversation with Joan Miller and Gary Jones, Chair, Greenhouse and Nursery, School of Horticulture at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

TAKE NOTE

Changes to Upcoming Meetings

For the months of April and May, we will experiment with the meeting format.

Refreshments will be at 7 pm. Please arrive before the start of business at 7:30 pm to socialize, purchase raffle tickets, return and borrow library books and sign up for outings and workshops. After the business items on the agenda, we'll take a break to allow you to stretch your legs. Raffle numbers will be called after the speaker is finished.

These changes will allow more time for the speaker to present information. Your thoughts on the experiment will be sought after the May meeting.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Signs of Spring on Film by Debra Halbig

Several times this year, we will give members a chance to share their gardens through photographs. The theme will be announced at the meeting before the photographs are displayed. Photographs will not be judged -- just admired.

Next month's theme is the Signs of Spring. Photos of blooms and blossoms, robins and even raindrops will lift our spirits and celebrate this very exciting time in every gardener's year. Bring one to three photographs to our meeting or e-mail them to me by midnight on Sunday, April 12th and I'll print them off for 25 cents per photograph. Retrieve your photographs at meeting's end.

Contact Debra Halbig at 604-618-8648 or halbig@shaw.ca.



OUT AND ABOUT

Skagit Valley Tulip Festival

Tour the renowned display gardens and fields of tulips surrounding the waterfront town of La Connor in Washington. We'll stop for lunch and do a little sightseeing and shopping. The chartered motorcoach leaves Queen's Park at 9 am and returns in time for dinner. Price includes admission and transportation.

Family and friends are invited to join this outing. If there is not sufficient interest, it will be cancelled. Book now to avoid disappointment.

Saturday, April 18, 9 am to 5 pm
\$22 for members, \$27 for guests

Contact Sharon Seki by Sunday, March 15th at 604-525-1611 or sseki@telus.net.

SEED EXCHANGE

After many years of cleaning, labeling and packaging the seeds members collect, Buff O'Shaughnessy is moving on. Interested in taking on the job?

Collecting seeds from your own garden ensures that the seeds you sow

- have the highest germination rate,
- are chosen from the healthiest plants, and
- are selected for the traits you desire.

As well, many seeds are no longer commercially available. Cost is yet another factor. And, finally, sharing the seeds from your garden with relatives, friends and NWHS members is reason enough, isn't it?

Contact Carole Forsythe at 604-515-1927 or carole.forsythe@shaw.ca if you want to manage the seed exchange.

TREASURER APPOINTED

Please welcome Carla Sharp as our new Treasurer. Carla was appointed at the March 3rd meeting of the Executive Committee in response to the resignation of Rita Solkin for health and family reasons. Feel free to contact Carla at 604-540-4067 or carsbar@telus.net.



PLANT SALE

It's Down to the Crunch by Carole Forsythe with Audrey Barnes

The preparation for our biggest event of the year has begun! You can help ensure the success of this year's sale in one or more ways. Last year, your contributions of plants and time filled the yard. Contact Audrey Barnes at 604-526-8284 before 8 pm or sgbarnes@telus.net.

Donate Your Plants

Getting into your garden and delivering those plants is of immediate concern. After all, without plants, we don't have a plant sale.

Take a hard look at the plants in your garden. Could you do without that one that just didn't live up to its promise? Do you have too many of those? Is it just too big for that space? Colour isn't as advertised? What about that one you bought on impulse that you now regret? Well, we've got the solution to your gardening woes. We'll take the plants you don't want off your hands. Just dig them up and drop them off at Audrey's yard. We'll divide, pot, nurture, price and tag the plants. You won't recognize them when we're finished with them.

If you know of a property that's being renovated or demolished and you've got the owner's permission, a crew will be organized to rescue the plants.

We'll take whatever you want to give us with very few exceptions. So that the plants you've donated look their best on

sale day, we need them by Monday, April 13th.

When you drop your plants off, leave your name, phone number and as much information about the plants as possible. Ideally, provide each plant's

- common and botanical name,
- mature height and width,
- sunlight needs,
- flower colour, if applicable,
- growth habit, and
- special features.

The more information we have on a plant, the easier it is to sell. And, if you've got a photograph, that also helps sales.

Having emphasised the importance of identifying the plants you contribute, we'll also take those plants that you don't have a clue what they are. We'll do our best to identify them. Doing so takes time, however, so we really appreciate your effort in providing as many details as possible. *(Continued on next page...)*

PLANT SALE (Continued)

Help with the Yardwork

Dividing and potting plants has already started. It's a great way to learn more about horticulture and about your fellow members. Socializing is part of gardening after all. And, here's an inside tip. You'll know what's up for sale before our customers.

Labelling

Every plant needs a label. If you've got legible printing and don't mind a bit of repetition, this is the job for you! Pick up master tags at any meeting or get

The yard is open most days of the week from 10 am to 4 pm, but these hours are flexible. Two hour shifts are recommended. Wear layers to change with the weather. Sign up tonight or call Audrey.

them directly from Audrey.

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

PLANT A ROW GROW A ROW

A New Home by Joan Miller

New Westminster's Plant a Row-Grow a Row program is moving to Saint Thomas More Collegiate just in time for our annual Gardeners' Party. Join us on Thursday, March 26th in the school cafeteria for a great line-up of informative speakers as well as a cup of coffee and a treat. Brian Minter, Co-Chair of the national PAR-GAR program, will kick things off at 6 pm, so plan to

be there!

We'd like to thank St Aidan's

Presbyterian Church for hosting the program since 2002. It provided kitchen and freezer space, accepted donations of produce every Sunday morning and delivered it to the Food Bank each week. We couldn't have done it without you!



*Thursday, March 26, 6 to 9 pm
Saint Thomas More Collegiate
7450 12th Street, Burnaby*

WORKSHOP

Filled to the Brim

Linda's workshop on creating crafts with pressed flowers is full. Drop-ins will be turned away. If there is interest, a

second workshop will be offered in the fall. Contact Linda Turnbull at 604-937-7204 or lturnbull@shaw.ca.

*Saturday, March 28, 10 am to 12 pm
Plaskett Room, New Westminster Public Library
716 6th Avenue, New Westminster*

QUESTIONS FOR GARDENERS by Aldina Isbister

Ellen Berg

Any advice for new gardeners?

Persevere. Don't give up.

What gardening tool could you not live without?

A trowel -- I'm always finding something sprouting up that needs to be saved.

What's your favourite spring flower?

No favourite really, but I love lilac, forsythia and flowering currant.

Montana King

What plant best represents you?

Roses and thistle. Pretty and prickly.

Do you prefer sun or shade?

I like the sun, but I like to be in the

shade looking at the sun.

What is your gardening philosophy?

I hate killing slugs. And, the smell of spring is key to my well-being.

Claude LeDoux

What is the worst mistake gardeners make?

They don't do their research. Right plant, right place.

Describe your garden in three words.

Lots of work.

What is your favourite colour combination?

Black/purple and yellow/gold.



Like what you see? Pick up a copy of the April edition of Gardens West to see more of Linda Turnbull's garden.

Broccoli by Roy Pegler



Hopefully this month, the sun will warm the soil so that we can sow and plant the cool crop veggies. One

of my favourites is broccoli because it contains large amounts of sulforaphane, a compound that prevents some types of cancer. And, the benefits don't stop there. It also contains antioxidants that help protect the body from other diseases.

Sow seeds indoors four to six weeks before the last frost. Once plants show true leaves, fertilize with an organic fertilizer such as fish emulsion at half strength. Wait until the end of March to transplant broccoli and, as it is a heavy user of nitrogen, choose a spot where autumn leaves were added to the soil the previous fall. Add a handful of lime in the planting hole to prevent club root. Being careful not to disturb the roots, set seedlings one each deeper in the soil than they were in the pots. Plant in a staggered pattern 16 inches apart with 12 inches between rows. Fertilize every three to four weeks with an organic fertilizer. Broccoli, like all its cabbage relatives, needs significant amounts of boron which tends to be deficient in

soils that are very acidic, alkaline or deficient in organic matter.

Harvest broccoli when the head is dark green and is fully formed. The buds should also be very tight. Any hint of yellow colouring is a sign the head is overripe. Harvest by cutting the head free of the stalk with a knife. More, smaller heads will soon form as side shoots. Harvest these every few days to keep more forming for several weeks.

Varieties of broccoli are divided into a few handy groups: those that are sowed in now, in mid-April and in mid-May. Depending on which variety you choose, broccoli is harvested 50 to 100 days after transplanting.

Cool Crop Veggies

Start these cool crop vegetables soon:

- peas
- lettuce
- chard
- broad beans
- carrots
- onions
- radishes
- cauliflower
- cabbage
- broccoli

FEEDBACK

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