

Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

September 2009

October is Silent Auction

Join us for our annual, members-only, Silent Auction. It is your opportunity to clear your closets and tool sheds. Got a wedding gift two decades ago that you never really liked? Here is your chance to unload it. No computers or printers please. If your item is really large (like a brass bed), a photo with description would be better than the actual item, since there is limited space and all on-site items have to be transported home at the end of the evening.

Donating Items

For each item you donate, fill out a bidding slip in advance (available to take home tonight) or on the night of the auction. You set the bid: the minimum bid is 25¢, but the starting bid put on the slip can be higher.

Lots to Donate, No Problem

If you have a huge number of items, take advantage of Audrey's offer to pre-process them. Items can be delivered to Audrey's kitchen door anytime from September 26th to October 11th. The auction is October 13th. If

you would like to help Audrey process and sort, she would be delighted. Likewise, if you would like to help transport or arrange items on the tables. Set-up starts at noon on auction day.

Bidding on Items

When you arrive at the October meeting, get your personal bidding number from the treasurer's table. Then you can start bidding on the displayed items. Just put your bidder number and your bid amount on the item's slip.

How Do You Know You Won

At the end of the auction check items you've bid on. If yours was the final bid then the item is yours. Payment for all items is cash or personal cheque only.

You may find the perfect item that no one else bids on, or you may find yourself in a serious bidding war. Even if you don't bid on anything, it is a great evening for socializing and people watching. All proceeds go to NWHS's general revenue.

Garden Tools Sharpening Workshop

Two, hands-on, sharpening workshops (2-4 tools per person) will be held on Sunday, September 13th, 10:00 a.m. to noon, and 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.

Tonight's Meeting

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

Speaker: Bruce Hemstock

"Green Roofs"

Bring to Share

BC Council of Garden Clubs General Meeting

The BC Council's fall meeting will be on Saturday, October 17th. The speakers will be Adnan Uzunovic on Vivariums, Tom Baumann on Berries and Chris Hyde-Lay on Fall Colours. A hot lunch and refreshments are included. The NWHS will provide a \$5 subsidy toward the ticket of members who attend the meeting. Advanced payment for the balance of the ticket (\$15) is required to reserve your ticket. See Carla Sharp at the treasurer's table to sign-up. Deadline for payment is September 30th.

Contacts This Issue

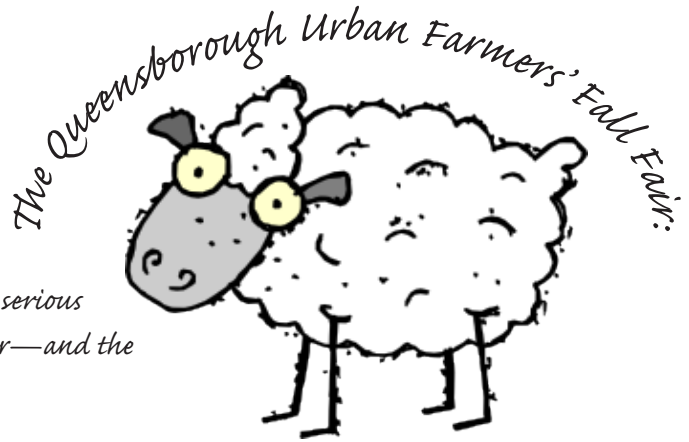
Audrey Barnes
audrey@newwesthortsociety.org

Anna Camporese
anna@newwesthortsociety.org

Carla Sharp
carla@newwesthortsociety.org

Sharon Seki
sharon@newwesthortsociety.org

Sunday, September 20th
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Queensborough Community Centre



It's only 12 sheeps away! Time to get serious about getting involved! Enjoy the fair—and the company of fellow NWHS members.

All Set-up: Saturday, September 19 starting at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, September 20 starting at 8:00 a.m.

The NWHS Booth Display

The themes for the NWHS display are the club's 75th Anniversary and "dyeing wool using natural dyes". For the Anniversary section, we will re-use the large memorabilia posters created for the June party. For the wool dyeing section, we have wool samples dyed with different materials and three books on the topic. Can you help us supplement this display with actual samples of the materials used as dyestuffs? We need marigolds, onion skins, walnut husks, horsetails, tansy, carrot tops, dandelions, St. Johnswort flowers, acorns, sumac berries, cranberries, blackberries. If you have any of these, please talk with Audrey prior to the fair so there is ample time to decide how the materials can be displayed most effectively.

Silina Nakatsu has volunteered to head the crew for the harvest display around our club booth. Sign-up if you would like to help her. Joan Miller has stepped in as overall coordinator of the NWHS display.

We still need member-power to help man the booth during fair day. A great opportunity to interact with public, tell them what the club is about, answer gardening questions and to make new friends within the club. Please sign up indicating what hours you would like to volunteer.

A two hour shift would be great.

Fall Harvest Displays

Every year the club receives numerous accolades for the autumn harvest displays. We decorate the entrance and stage and elsewhere as well if we have the materials. If you like staging displays, this is for you. Creative? Sign-up.

Props Needed for Display

With several of our regular prop loaners out of town, the request goes out to all club members for the loan of anything farmy or autumny and, of course, sheepish. All props will be collected at Audrey's (do not leave in carport, go to kitchen door). She will guarantee them returned to you after the fair. If you put your name on your items, that will be helpful. We are also looking for autumn foliage of all types. This should be bundled and left in Audrey's carport. Got a bumper crop of squash, corn, carrots, etc? We would love to borrow it. Again, Audrey will return your items to you or, if you wish, donate them to Plant a Row, Grow a Row. Please sign the list, saying what you can contribute. Collection at your place can probably be arranged.

Transport of Stuff

Help is needed late Saturday afternoon to cart all the collected materials from Audrey's carport to the fair (arrival at the Community Centre about 4:30 p.m.) and on Sunday at fair closing (5:00 p.m.) to take everything back to the carport. There is a sign-up sheet.

The Competitions

This is Audrey's area of responsibility on the Fair Committee. Several people will be needed to process the entries arriving at the Community Centre between 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Fair Day. Two willing volunteers to work an additional half hour to help double-check and sort the entries into the categories would be helpful. A side-kick for even longer hours would be appreciated. Please sign-up to help.

Enter the competitions: For club members, NWHS will absorb the entry fee for your exhibits. If you have non-perishable entries, drop them off to Audrey at her house prior to Fair Day. She can then process your entries early, at her leisure. There is no limit on your number of entries per category. A huge number is expected for "ugliest flower".

Mark Your Calendar

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

Sunday, **September 20**
Queensborough Fall Fair
 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Queensborough Community Ctr

Thursday, **September 17**
 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Royal City Farmers Market NWHS Booth
 Tipperary Park, NewWestminster

Tuesday, **September 29**
 7:00 p.m.
 NWHS Regular
Executive Committee Meeting
 Home of Anna Camporese
 RSVP

Tuesday, **October 13,**
7:30 p.m.
Silent Auction (no speaker)
 Contest entries due.

Saturday, **October 17th**
8:30 - 2:30
BC Council of Garden Clubs General Meeting
 555 Slocan St., Vancouver

OCTOBER IS THE DUE DATE FOR PHOTO, CONTAINER & MY 3 SEASONS CONTESTS:

Please bring you entries for all the contests to the October meeting. Collection of entries will take place at the podium. Envelopes will be supplied.

Photo Contest:

Categories:

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: An over-all or partial view of any member’s garden.

In October, you will be assigned an exhibitor number which you will put on the back of each photo. Do not put your name on the photos. There will be large envelopes, one for each photo category. Place your photos into the appropriate envelope. You can enter up to 3 photos in each category. The photos must be no larger than 5” x 7”. If panoramic, the smallest dimension can be no larger than 5”. All photos must have been taken since October 1, 2008. The photos will be judged by Steve Grover.

Winners will be announced at the December party. First place in each category wins \$15, second \$10 and third \$5.

Container Contest:

Share your plant combinations with other members. You can enter up to three of your personally created containers. In October, submit a photo of each container at its best as well as a list of the plants you used. The earlier mentioned “starting” photo is not mandatory but can be included. Each entry will go in its own envelope. Just put your photo, name, list in the envelope and put the envelope in the “container” box. At the November meeting, all entries will be posted so everyone can vote for their favorite. The winner will be announced at the December party. First place gets \$15, second \$10, third \$5.

“My 3 Seasons” Contest:

With this contest, members can share their multi-season gardens with other members—showing plants with more than one season of interest and of good plant combinations. You can have up to three entries. Each entry must consist of three (3) individual photos showing the same subject in three different seasons. In October, use one envelope for each entry. Each envelope should have three photos and your name. If you would like to list the main plants, that would be informative. As with the container contest, all entries will be posted in November, everybody votes and the winner announced in December. First place \$15, second \$10, third \$5.

From the Treasurer: Carla Sharp

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

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

In Your Vege Patch — *Leaf Lettuce: A Fall Vegetable*

By Roy Pegler

Hopefully all vege growers are enjoying good harvests this month since the weather has been beneficial to most vegetables. Now we have to prepare garden plots for fall and winter production, early spring harvest and getting a jump on next season. Planting garlic and broad beans this month will give you beans to harvest in the spring and garlic that's got a head start on those planted in the spring. Reminder—buy garlic cloves from garden centres as the cloves from the grocery store could be sprayed with growth inhibitors.

For fall and early winter harvesting plant lettuce now.

Though lettuce grows readily in cool soil, it really needs to be at the transplant stage now so that we can harvest up to the first frost and even after a light frost or two for some varieties that will stand it.

Leaf lettuce has the most varieties and is the easiest to grow. Leaf lettuce produces loose bunches of leaves, rather than a head. The leaves of all varieties of leaf lettuce are exceptionally tender. Harvesting can start about 40 days after transplanting by pulling off outside leaves as you need them and leaving the plant base. It will eventually grow more leaves you can harvest.

Keeping soil moist is very

important and fertilizing with fish liquid will increase production. The key to tender and tasty lettuce is rapid growth, but lettuce has a relatively shallow, compact root system that doesn't absorb nutrients and moisture from the soil very efficiently which can slow growth. To encourage fast growth, add plenty of finished compost before planting and again as a side dressing when transplants are planted. Lettuce doesn't require a lot of water, but it needs some water all the time. Lack of moisture causes plant growth to stop, which can also produce slightly bitter flavour in the leaves.

YWCA Roof Top Garden: Doing a lot with a little

The August outing to the YWCA roof top garden was humbling and inspirational to see what can be grown in six inches of soil, five stories up. Ted Cathcart, who initiated the garden, and Juliana Pasko, who provides Master Gardener guidance, were our tour guides for the garden.



Light box bought with donation from the NWHS 2008 Christmas raffle money. Photo: Ted Cathcart

Ted proudly showed us the multi-level light box to start vegetables from seed. Ted said this was a great boon as it reduced their costs in buying bedding plants and allowed them greater choice in what they planted.



Attending club members with YWCA volunteers Juliana Pasko (far left) and Ted Cathcart (center). Photo: Mary Barnard

Order from Botanus: No Delivery Fee for NWHS Members/Deadline for Ordering September 15th

Through a special arrangement with Botanus, NWHS members can order directly from Botanus and have their delivery fee waived. Members must state directly that they are a NWHS member when ordering (by phone, fax, or online). If ordering online, please note that the delivery fee will appear onscreen and then be deducted when the order is processed. The delivery fee is waived because instead of shipping to the individuals, Botanus will deliver all orders to Carla Sharp, club treasurer. Carla will ensure that your order is delivered to you.

For members who have already placed an order (from the current Fall 2009 catalogue), but not yet received it, they can contact Botanus directly to explain they are a NWHS member. Botanus will include your order with the group delivery and credit or reimburse the delivery fee.

Catalogues are available from Carla at the Treasury table or at Botanus.com.