

# Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

December 2012

## **PARTY TONIGHT!!!!**

The December meeting is the Club's Annual holiday dinner. Tonight we have awards and a Christmas Draw as well as great food and good company! Thank you to all the elves who helped make prizes!

### **OUR 2012 CHRISTMAS DRAW RECIPIENT:**

Every year we select a local compassionate charity to receive the profits from our Christmas party draw. We try to spread the wealth by picking a different one each year. Upon the suggestion from a member, **The New Westminster Victims Assistance Association** is our 2012 charity. It is a charitable organization that, working with the New Westminster Police, provides support services to a wide variety of residents in the city of New Westminster. The staff and volunteers provide on scene assistance, emotional support, court updates and outcomes. They help people complete forms including victim impact statements and crime victim assistance applications. Court orientation, court accompaniment and referrals to outside agencies are available through this service.

### **GARDEN GALS AT TREASURE ROOM:**

When you visit the Arts Council Christmas gift boutique look for the notebooks, gardening journals, calendars featuring the artistic creations of our club's sketch group. Very spiffy. Very nice.

### **Contacts**

**Julia Goulden - President**

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julia@newwesthortsociety.org

**Ellen Berg - Treasurer** - 604-525-7827

or ellen@newwesthortsociety.org

**Karen Low - Seed Exchange**

seeds@newwesthortsociety.org

### **YOUR 2013 NWHS EXECUTIVE:**

At our November AGM, the following group was acclaimed to guide the club through 2013. It looks like we will be in good hands.

President: Julia Goulden

Vice-President: Lorna Cloutier

Treasurer: Ellen Berg

Secretary: Mary Barnard

Show Chair: Lea McDonald

Members-at-Large: Deirdre Antonelli,

Trudy Findlay, Marjorie Knutson, Monica

Mowat, Meighan Scott

Remember that if you are not on executive that does not mean that you cannot be involved. Got a great idea for a tour? Want to write an article for the newsletter? Keen on helping with a specific club event? Talk with any of the executive. Early in 2013, a group will be meeting to discuss NWHS fund raising possibilities. Julia would love to include you.

### **WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS:**

*We wish you a merry Christmas,*

*We wish you a merry Christmas,*

*We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.*

*Good tidings we bring to you and your kin,*

*Good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year.*

*Now bring us a figgy pudding,*

*Now bring us a figgy pudding,*

*Now bring us a figgy pudding and a cup of good cheer.*

*We won't go 'til we've got some,*

*We won't go 'til we've got some,*

*We won't go 'til we've got some, so bring some out here.*

*We wish you a merry Christmas,*

*We wish you a merry Christmas,*

*We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.*

## Mark Your Calendar

### **Christmas Cheer at Irving House**

December 8, 9, 15 & 16, Saturdays & Sundays, 12pm – 4pm, At Irving House enjoy live Christmas music with a variety of performers and make a small decoration for one of the Irving House Christmas trees.

Drop-in Fee: By Donation

**Christmas Boutique 2012**, Place des Art, Coquitlam to Dec 21, 2012, 1120 Brunette Avenue, Coquitlam, 'Offering holiday shoppers a veritable Aladdin's cave of glittering bobbles and delightful seasonal gifts.'

Mon - Fri 9am - 9pm

Sat - 9am - 5pm, Sun - 1 pm - 5 pm

**Jewel Box of Lights**, December 6, 2012 - January 1, 2013 (closed December 25th), 4:30pm - 9:00pm

Bloedel Conservatory: Off 33rd Avenue between Cambie and Main Streets, Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver, Adult \$7; Senior/Youth (13-18) \$5 ; Child (3-12) \$3.50

**Festival of Lights**, Dec 7 - Jan 1, (closed Dec 25th), 4:30pm - 9pm, VanDusen Botanical Gardens, 5251 Oak Street, Vancouver

Adult (19-64): \$14.25

Senior (65+): \$10.50

Youth (13-18): \$10.50

Child (3-12): \$7.75, under 2 free

**NWHS February Meeting**, Tuesday, February 11, 2013, 7:30pm

Speaker: Bert Garbuio "Figs and Grapes"

**YOUR 2013 MEMBERSHIP:**

Your current membership expires at the end of February 2013. At the AGM, the members present voted to increase the annual fee from \$10 to \$15.

## 2012 NWHS CONTESTS:

Tonight we salute the winners of our Photo, Container and Garden Design Contests. Did you know they get monetary prizes in those envelopes? Each First place gets \$15, second \$10, third \$5. Congratulations to all the winners. Thank you to all who entered the contests—it is a pleasure for us to enjoy the images and to get some great ideas in the container and design contests. If you want to get a jump on next years' photo contest, the categories will be the same with the colour in the garden being RED.

19 members entered the Photo Contest. There were 31 entries in Colour in the Garden (Blue), 30 in Visitors to your Garden, 15 in View of a NWHS Garden. For the Container Contest, 5 entrants submitted a total of 11 entries. For the Garden Design (Gates and Passages), 5 people entered 14 entries.

## AND THE WINNERS ARE:

### Photo Contest:

#### Colour in the Garden: Blue

1. Gillian Escalante
2. Linda Turnbull
3. Audrey Barnes

#### Visitors in your Garden:

1. Gillian Escalante
2. Gillian Escalante
3. Heather Best

#### View of a NWHS Garden:

1. Linda Turnbull
2. Diane Escalante
3. Jacqueline Shephard

### Container Contest:

1. Audrey Barnes
2. Diane Escalante
3. Linda Turnbull

### Garden Design: Gates and Passages:

1. Linda Turnbull
2. Diane Escalante
3. Diane Escalante

## A WORD FROM THE PHOTO CONTEST JUDGE:

Kevin Hudkins, once again, judged the contest entries. If you are interested in seeing some of his own work, it is on Flickr at [www.flickr.com/photos/prestidigitize](http://www.flickr.com/photos/prestidigitize). You will be wowed! Thank you Kevin, for judging the photos and commenting on the winning photos.

### Kevin's General Comments:

"Once again, it was an enjoyable experience looking through the entries this year, with some notably strong images. There was a bit more of a macro presence this year, and some very careful compositions, which is great to see. The Colour in the Garden category was particularly difficult to narrow down to just the top three, so kudos to all. I will reiterate a comment from last year in encouraging you to try and critically evaluate your image for balance and flow: decide what your main subject is in the image, and assess whether it is emphasized as you would like, and whether or not there is a dynamic trend through your frame. Often having a diagonal aspect helps in this regard, as does avoiding centering your subject (the "rule of thirds" is a good guideline). As well, try to be critical in looking for things that distract from the main subject you're trying to show: stray branches, over-exposed areas, bits of a building that seem out of place: everything should feel as though it belongs in the frame. Often just taking a moment to bend a branch out of the frame or moving the camera a little will make all the difference in the composition. I would like to thank the New Westminster Horticultural Society for inviting me again to participate in this year's photo contest. I had a very enjoyable time viewing the entries. Congratulations to the winners, and to everyone for taking an interest in photography and working to improve their skills."

## AMARYLLIS, PAPERWHITE AND CHRISTMAS CACTUS: AFTER THE FLOWER CARE

**Amaryllis:** It is easy to find how to grow these gorgeous flowers—in most cases, it involves just reading the label. But how do you get it to bloom a second year? Not rocket science at all. Just think: what does the plant need. It has to build up its strength and it must be forced to bloom again.

After flowering, cut the old flowers from the stem and when the stem starts to sag, cut it off at the top of the bulb. Continue to water and fertilizer as normal for at least 5 to 6 months to allow the leaves to fully develop and grow (i.e. build up the strength of the bulb). When the leaves begin to yellow, usually in early fall, cut the leaves back to 2 inches from the top of the bulb and stop watering. Remove the bulb from the soil, clean it and place it in a cool (40-50°F = 4-10°C) dark place for a minimum of 6 weeks (i.e. setting the bulb up forcing). The ideal spot for this is your refrigerator crisper—but be aware that if your fridge contains apples, the apples will sterilize the bulbs. After 6 weeks, plant the bulbs. Allow 8 weeks for the planted bulb to bloom.

**Paperwhite Narcissus:** Unlike the amaryllis, paperwhites are exhausted beyond redemption when forced. The way to get new flowers is to buy new bulbs.

**Christmas Cactus:** Not as well known as the poinsetta, a Christmas cactus is a great seasonal gift for a gardener. Pruning your Christmas cactus after blooming will encourage the plant to branch out. Remove a few sections of each stem by pinching them off with your fingers or cutting with a sharp knife. These sections can be rooted in moist vermiculite to propagate new plants. Christmas cactus will bloom if given long uninterrupted dark and cool periods. Begin the dark /cool treatments in about mid-October to have plants in full bloom by the holidays.

## TREASURER'S REPORT - Nov.

Total Revenues: \$785.50

Total Expenses: \$502.08