

# Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

May 2012

## June is Show Month in NWHS

Lots of fun next month when you have the opportunity to “show what you grow” and to exhibit your creative side. The show schedule is available as a separate document. There are three general categories: Vegetables, Herbs & Fruits; Cut Flowers; Floral Art. Within each category are numerous classes each of which gives you an opportunity to exhibit. These offers of participation are really a sneaky way to get you out into your garden and really looking at it. Succumb and you will enjoy your garden more.

### General Rules:

1. You must be a paid up member of NWHS to enter.
2. You are limited to two (2) entries in each class.
3. You must supply your own container for each exhibit.
4. For each exhibit, you must fill out an exhibit slip. They will be available at the June meeting.
5. All exhibits must be pest free.
6. The tables will be set-up with cards (with class number and name) indicating which class goes where.
7. Make sure you arrive within the allotted set-up time (6:45 to 7:25). If your exhibit is not in its correct spot by 7:25, it cannot be entered.
8. Everyone is invited to view the exhibits—but please do not disturb the judge or touch the exhibits.
9. At the end of the meeting, please collect all your exhibits and clean up any spilled water or plant material.

### How to Enter the Show:

1. Read the schedule and decide what you would like to enter. Remember everybody got hit with the same weather conditions. Get to the lodge with plenty of spare time. Some people bring their entries already in their containers. Others put things together at the lodge. Time is of the essence and there will be lots of other people doing the same thing.
2. Get assigned your “unique exhibitor number” and pick up your exhibit slips from the Show Chair or her assistant.
3. Fill out an exhibit slip for each entry. Plant details go on the first line. Your unique exhibitor number in the box on the second line and the class number of your exhibit in the box on the class line. Leave the remainder of the form empty for the judge to fill out.

### And the Awards Are...

- First, Second and Third in Each Class (placement ribbons): Judging is by a qualified horticultural judge who has option of awarding a tie or not awarding a specific placement if the quality of the exhibits is low.
- Best of Show Awards (rosettes plus cash: \$30 for each of the Vegetable and Cut Flower classes; \$50 for the Floral Art class): Selected by popular choice. Everybody will get color-coded ballots to vote during the refreshment break. The voting procedure will be detailed in the June newsletter.

## Tonight's Meeting

**Tuesday, May 8, 7:30pm**

May speaker - Dr. Elmer Ogryzlo

Topic: Chrysanthemums

## Mark Your Calendar

**Tuesday, June 12, 7:30pm**

General Meeting/June In-Club Show

Speaker: Angela Drake

Topic: Solar Greenhouses

**Sunday May 13th at 2pm – 3:30pm**

Queen's Park Greenhouse Tour

with Claude Ledoux, our Parks

Horticulture Manager

Please meet at the Greenhouse facility at 2pm.

**Sunday, May 27, 10:00am-5:00pm**

New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society presents

The 33rd Anniversary Homes Tour

Cost: \$35, tickets go on sale May 5 at various locations

[www.newwestheritage.org](http://www.newwestheritage.org)

**Sunday, June 24 10:00am-5:00pm**

Gabriola Island Home and Garden

Tour - self-guided

Cost: \$20/Contact: 1-250-247-7311

email: [info@phc-gabriola.org](mailto:info@phc-gabriola.org)

[www.phc-gabriola.org](http://www.phc-gabriola.org)

**Saturday, July 14**

Club Garden Tour and Picnic

See page 2.

**Sunday, July 15 - 11:00am-4:00pm**

Vancouver Shade Garden Society

2012 Annual Show

Floral Hall, VanDusen Botanical

Garden, Oak and 37th, Vancouver

Free

# New Westminster Horticultural Society May 2012

## Membership Renewals

If you want to maintain your continuous membership record and have not yet paid your 2012 dues, tonight is the absolute deadline to visit the treasurer's table with your \$10. When you have been a continuous member for 25 years (Those years seem to stack up pretty quick!), you attain the status of being a NWHS Life Member. One Life Member perk is never having to pay annual NWHS dues again!

**Member Discounts:** When visiting a nursery, ask if they offer a discount for garden club members and show your membership card. Ask this before your purchases are rung up at the till. Some, such as GardenWorks, do. Some don't. If the answer is "yes", express your thanks and tell them that you certainly will be back and will spread the word. If the answer is "no", just say you weren't sure and thought you would confirm. Please be pleasant. If enough people ask, maybe they will give the discount in the future. A few years ago, there were many more places offering a discount than there are now. That was before people abused the privilege by sharing their membership cards. Please do not do so.

## Garden Tour & Picnic

Saturday, July 14th, is the date of the club's next big social event. During the afternoon we will be visiting 5 or 6 gardens according to a set itinerary. We aim for members' gardens but often there is a "you gotta see this garden" available. Having the gardens viewed in a sequence allows those who are showing their gardens to visit the others. At this point we have 2 gardens confirmed. Would you like to add your garden? There is no better way to get a project finished than to put it on show. Conversely, viewing half finished projects puts us all at

ease since that is the state of most of our gardens. A garden is never finished. The tour is just another way in which we share gardening ideas. The tour is for club members and adult guests. Talk with Julia or Audrey if you would like to show your garden. After the tour, we will be gathering at Anne McNamara's for the pot-luck dinner picnic. Thank you, Anne, for welcoming us back. At the June & July meetings there will be a sign-up sheet for you to state what you would like to bring to the pot-luck.

Although the two events are held on one day, members are invited to join in either or both.

## NWHS Sketching Group

Drop in meetings are the third Wednesday of each month (excluding May & Dec.) from 7pm to 9pm at Arts Council gallery. Bring sketching supplies. A \$2.00 drop in fee is requested. **All NWHS members** are welcome to participate.

## Treasurer's Report Mar. 14-31

Total Revenues: **\$3337.80**

Total Expenses: **\$2682.08**

See the bulletin board for full report

## Contacts

**Julia Goulden - President**

604-526-1140 or

[julia@newwesthortsociety.org](mailto:julia@newwesthortsociety.org)

**Ellen Berg - Treasurer**

604-525-7827 or

[ellen@newwesthortsociety.org](mailto:ellen@newwesthortsociety.org)

**Audrey Barnes - June Show/Garden Tour**

604-526-8284 (Before 8pm) or

[audrey@newwesthortsociety.org](mailto:audrey@newwesthortsociety.org)

**Lea McDonald - June Show**

604-942-2232



Not Little Cat

## Garden Club Sales

**May 12, Saturday - 9am - 12pm**

South Surrey Garden Club, Annual Plant Sale - St. Mark's, 12953 - 20th Ave., South Surrey

**May 12, Saturday - 10am-1pm**

Lynn Valley Garden Club  
St Clement's Anglican Church  
3400 Institute Road, North Van

**Upcoming Tours:** Three tours are still in the planning stage:

- A guided tour of the Riverview lands and gardens
- A tour of Pacific Northwest Propagators (featuring over 1500 different varieties of trees and plants), located on 10188 Chapman Road, Rosedale with an additional stop to Brian Minter's garden store in Chilliwack
- A shopping tour to It's About Thyme Nursery on 7509 Meadow Ave., Burnaby



Poor Things - Ellen to the rescue!



Bosses faking a decision

## *The 2012 NWHS Super Sale: The end of an era.*

The sale is over and a lot of us our sighing a breath. "WOW!" Our club members pulled together to put on a really good sale—as always. Our sale will surely be missed by local (and not-so-local) gardeners.

The line to get in started at about 8:45. We stopped limiting the number in at one time at about 11:30. We didn't sell out like we hoped but we did sell a huge number of plants. Starting with over 10,000, only about 550 returned to the carport. We discounted twice: once to 50% off and, with just over a half hour to closing, to 25¢ per plant. You could hear the murmur go through the crowd when that was announced! Breaking down how many plants sold

at what prices: 59% sold at full price, 16% sold at 10% off (to keen NWHS members), 13% sold at half price and 12% sold at 25¢. Loads were given away at the free table. Regarding the plants left over, the New Westminster Parks gardeners have first pick. The fate of the remaining plants will be announced tonight.

A fantastic sale to end what seemed at times an impossible prep season. It seemed that spring would never arrive and then all at once the plants poured in and members potted and potted and potted. One nice thing about the weather, very few of the plants when under extreme transplanting stress. Not one aphid this year! That has to be a first.

Hats off to all members who helped. And to those who coerced their friends and families to pitch in. Very much appreciated.

It's time to put the super sale to rest and figure out just what form the plant sale or sales will take in the future. There have been some ideas tossed around. If you have any ideas regarding club fundraising suitable to the best garden club in the lower mainland, approach Julia or one of the other executive members. Sharon, Anna & Audrey are taking a break from organizing sales but are definitely available as resource people.

RIP SUPER SALE.



Taming Tomatoes from Hell



Lorna and Kathy sitting down on the job



Nice Neighbours



Sale Day



Edibles



The Free Table

## Memories of Sales Past

Recently we conducted an informal survey, mainly chatting around the potting table, of outstanding memories of plant sale pasts. Here are the top ten.

- Clumps of plants arriving at the sale wrapped in newspaper. Often we had no clue what they were.
- Colored dots for pricing. We really got efficient when, at the sale site, we color-coded the prices. So no more hurried writing prices on tags, slap a dot on instead. Much faster. At this same time, we introduced our tally sheets.
- Fanny pack cash boxes: Anyone could take money—just put in your pocket or fanny pack and periodically deliver it to the cashier.
- We're rich! It was unbelievable when we made over \$600. And then over \$2000! High 5's all around.
- Our plant introductions: We had fun making up names for plants we could not identify and then promoting them as "must haves". *Gloriosum mystic*, an unknown from Gloria's yard, was later identified as a weed. *Digitalis garycorus* was grown from seed collected in Gary & Cory's yard.
- Making tags when potting: In the

early days of potting in the carport, when we would be potting at one table with a couple of volunteers at the next table making the plant tags for the plants we were working on.

- One rough tag per tray: Now when potting, we identify each tray with a rough tag for later identification. The first year we did this, we used pieces of paper. Only one problem, by the time we got to put in the final tags, slugs or sow bugs had devoured many of the plant details.
- Working in the yard in tee-shirts and shorts: Ah, the days of balmy springs. We have photo documentation that they actually existed.
- Plant sale shuffle: At the middle school, if you took time to listen, you could hear, "swoosh, pause; swoosh, pause; swoosh, pause..." as people advanced down the cash line, pushing their plants along the floor in front of them.
- The cash line with no end: When at the middle school, the line-up for cash completely encircled the perennial table. Only a bit of a crush. Not exactly a fond memory.
- Iris left at Anna's: One year, before we had fine-tuned how to really stuff

a yard with plants, we had a huge number of iris. So we held them over in Anna's back yard—and completely forgot about them. Halfway through the sale, someone remembered.

- Super-helpful soldiers: "Yes ma'am", "My pleasure ma'am", "Anything else ma'am?" At our first sale at the Armoury, the soldiers on duty couldn't do enough to help us. It was much appreciated at the time and still is.
- Safeway Carts on Aggregate: This was by far the top memory. In 2004 at the mall, the sale date we had publicized was changed to a week earlier. Thanks to great PR in the local newspapers, the word got out. At the start of the sale, we were grouped getting final instructions when they opened the mall doors. The sound! Those carts on the exposed aggregate—it was like a freight train coming at us! We all froze. All of our heads turned in unison to the sound and then we scattered to our locations. We sold out that year without reducing prices—much to the dismay of the three charities waiting for our leftovers. *OOPS! Over ten!* There are many more memories that did not make the list.



At the Mall 2006



Glenbrook School Gym 2008