

Newsletter



Seasonal Cheer Everyone!

Welcome to our 2013 end of the year festivities. Tonight we share good food and good times with our good friends in NWHS. The feast is catered by Austin Gourmet Caterers. The gorgeous poinsettias were purchased from New West Parks Greenhouse. The good camaraderie supplied by your NWHS members. So nice that the weather is cooperating. Enjoy yourselves.

OUR CHRISTMAS DRAW:

Many thanks to the busy elves who have created our raffle prizes. What an assortment! Something for everyone! **St. Barnabas Community Church** is this year's selection to receive our annual Christmas charitable donation raised

through our Christmas Crafts Draw. St. Barnabas is located in the Brow of the Hill neighbourhood of New Westminster. Monies raised through the proceeds of their Thrift Store (open Thur. to Sat. from 1:00pm-3:00pm), different fundraisers and through donations helps the church community fund the weekly community meal program, the emergency food cupboard, the Christmas meal for 100 to 150 people, a halfway house and the services of a community advocate. As well there is an on-site daycare and a community garden. St. Barnabas dates back to the very earliest days of New Westminster and is truly a mainstay in our community.

MIRACLE IN MY BACKYARD:

What a year weatherwise! A very mild winter, followed by an endless summer and ending in a deepfreeze. Along with the weather were unusual happenings in our gardens. Many mental exclamations: "Hey, that plant never did that before", "Wow, that's neat!", "That thing is blooming again!" A few members are sharing some of their Garden Miracles with us:

The Re-bloomers:

- Forsythia in October (Linda Turnbull)
- Midnight Oil Iris (dark purple bearded) in October (Dan Tessaro)
- Pink rhododendron in October—in the fog (Dan Tessaro)
- Midwinter Fire Cornus (orange twig dogwood) in October (AudreyBarnes)
- Ivory Prince Hellebore flowered all summer
- Delphiniums and miniature rhododendron in October(Brenda Fairfax)

New and Amazing Plant Activity:

- Large monstrous night-blooming cereus cactus in my greenhouse flowered for the first time (Linda Cloutier)
- Star magnolia set seed for the first time (Audrey Barnes)
- Full moon maple flowered and set seed for the first time (Audrey Barnes)
- Silver Spanish lavender bloomed and re-bloomed and re-bloomed and grew very large in a short period of time (Diane Escalante)
- Japanese anemone seed heads changed into tiny lady-slipper shapes and then into cottony puffs (Ellen Berg & Julia Goulden)
- Very mature Alocasia plumbea 'Nigra' (aka Elephant Ear) produced seven yellow, lightly perfumed spathes in succession from July to mid September (Linda Turnbull)

A Sad Miracle: With impatiens walleriana being wiped-out by a fungus this year, to find one still in bloom hidden under a hosta leaf in October was amazing. So sad. I just stared at it thinking "This is the last impatiens flower I will probably ever see in my garden." (Audrey Barnes)

Tonight's Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 6pm - 9pm
NWHS Christmas Celebration
Buffet dinner at 6:30pm

Mark Your Calendar

NWHS First Regular Meeting in 2014
February 11 - 7:30pm

Festival of Lights - Vandusen Botanical Garden Dec. 11 to Jan. 4
Wed to Sat , 4:30pm to 9pm

Irving House Victorian Christmas
Sat and Sun, 12pm to 4pm - Nov 22 to Dec. 29 - Victorian Christmas Tea
Dec. 7, 8, 14 15 - Ph: 604-527-4640 or museum@newwestcity.ca

Burnaby Village Museum - "Illuminations at Heritage Christmas"
Open Daily 6501 Deer Lake Ave., 604-297-4565 or burnabyvillagemuseum.ca - FREE

Vagabond Theatre
Presents "The Importance of Being Uncle Roscoe" Dec. 4 to 21, Wed to Sat, 8:00pm; Sunday Matinees, 2:00pm Tickets \$15, Seniors/Students, \$13 - Reservations: 604-521-0412

TREASURER'S REPORT - November

Total Revenues: \$ 379.10
Total Expenses: \$ 409.51

CHARLOTTE ROZMAN:

Charlotte passed away on November 26th -92 years old! Until the last few years, she was a fixture at our meetings. Just a lovely person. The poem on her memorial card is perfect:

*Her cheery ways and smiling face
Are a pleasure to recall;
She had a kindly word for each;
And died beloved by all.*

New Westminster Horticultural Society

December 2013

NWHS CONTESTS:

This year we reduced the number of entries a member could submit in each contest: from 3 to 2. This was in response from suggestions from the membership. The idea was the number of members entering each contest would increase with the elimination of a possible sweep by any member. Well, it didn't seem to work. Very disappointing. The basic reason to hold the contests is to offer an easy venue for members to share garden experiences and ideas with other members. Selecting winners and awarding prizes is secondary.

THE 2013 WINNERS: Tonight the winners of the contests receive their envelopes: First place gets \$15; Second, \$10 and Third, \$5. It is great to see some who have never entered before, win tonight. All entries for the photo contests are on the wall. As are the Container Contest and Garden Design winners (as voted by the membership in Nov).

Photo Contest:

Visitors in the Garden:

1. Heather MacKenzie
2. Gillian Escalante
3. Susan Tamkin

Garden Colour: Red

1. Susan Tamkin
2. Linda Turbull
3. Ellen Berg

Garden View:

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

Container Contest:

1. Diane Escalante
2. Diane Escalante
3. Linda Turnbull & Audrey Barnes (tie)

Garden Design: Using Height:

1. Diane Escalante
2. Linda Turnbull & Audrey Barnes (tie)

Our 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. 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 were some very well thought out compositions, which is great to see. Both the Colour in the Garden and the Visitors to the Garden categories were difficult to narrow down to just the top three, so well done. There were fewer entries this year, which I do hope is not a trend. Photography is such a great way to help you see and appreciate what's around you!

One aspect I noticed this year was that the focus was not always exactly where it should be, which weakened otherwise strong images: this is sometimes tricky with auto-focus deciding what to do, but I would suggest trying to pay attention to what your camera decides, and out-think it when necessary. Most cameras will lock their exposure and focus when you depress the shutter release button half way, so you may want to try having your subject in the centre of the viewfinder while you partially depress the button, and then recompose the shot as desired before pressing the release completely.

Since there is some very fine macro work being entered in this competition, the group may want to consider adding a Macro category, where the subject can be anything from the garden. This could help the remaining categories remain more consistent in their subjects and technique.

I would like to thank the New Westminster Horticultural Society for inviting me to again 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.

Contacts

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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.*

Micheline Ippersiel:

In a few days, after decades of living in the Lower Mainland, Micheline is returning to home-province Quebec. Micheline: Thank you for your participation in "beautifying" club events and for being such a positive and generous person. You will be missed by the membership of NWHS. Is it true you are returning to Quebec for the warmer weather?

NWHS 2014 EXECUTIVE:

Selected by acclamation at the Nov AGM, your executive will be:

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 Pauch, Monica Mowat, Meighan Scott.

Remember, you don't have to be on executive to be involved in the running of the club. Just approach any executive if you have ideas or want to help.