

# Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

June 2014

## WOW! WE'RE 80 YEARS OLD!

### HOW DID IT ALL START?

On March 28, 1934 a group of interested people met at City Hall to hear presentations by the Vancouver Horticultural Society, the Tulip Association and the Burnaby South Horticultural Society. VHS warned against forming an organization only of professional men and big garden owners but to make sure to include the ordinary house-holder who would "develop into an energetic worker". They advised to hold as many competitions as possible to keep interest alive, but not with the idea of winning prize money, but for the sport and honor of winning. Lectures should be held every month if possible. The Ladies Auxiliary of the VHS offered its assistance in forming a similar organization. A group was formed to draw up a constitution of NWHS. Three weeks later, on April 18th, 16 people met again at city hall to complete the organization and elect officers. But there was a stalemate on joining because they didn't know the membership fee. So they set it at \$1. Then how can you elect officers with no membership. It was decided all present could vote. Elections were held and NWHS was born. There was to be a speaker and a Parlour Show every month and the secretary was to notify the members a week ahead as of the show schedule. The first general meeting of NWHS was held on May 1 with a presentation on tulips and the show judge citing several instances in which good exhibits were disqualified because they did not match the schedule. By the end of 1934, there were 58 paid-up members.

**Through the years:** As society has changed, so has NWHS. Big horticultural shows, once prominent,

are now rare. They used to be a big part of the PNE. During the 50s and the 70s, NWHS received grants from the City of New Westminster to help with their entries. Why? Winning at the PNE was great publicity for the city as it brought honor to New Westminster and her gardens. And we did win big at the PNE! NWHS put on multi-day flower shows open to everyone. Now we have one in-club show in July. Going to a garden show was a social event.



### FUN-RAISING THRU FUNDRAISING:

Participation has been great in our fundraising activities. Reports of good times abound. We are well on the way to exceeding our projected total. Amazing what happens when we apply ourselves. Here are some of the net gains for our coffers from different endeavours. Florissa Spring Program, \$378; Sushi Cooking Course, \$118; Dim Sum Cooking Course, \$240; May At-Meeting Draw, \$100; At-Meeting Plant Sale, \$475 (total to date); Blvd Plant Sale, \$1450.

**IN-CLUB PLANT SALES:** This has definitely been a positive addition to our meetings--some members are arriving early just to purchase. It has proven so popular that Dan Tessaro, sales chief, has been feeling captive behind the table. Why not arrive early and help him with the sale? Help once or help often. Bonus: you'll get to know Dan.

**WHAT'S COOKING AT NWHS?** Silina Nakatsu has outdone herself as instructor. Both the Sushi and Dim Sum courses were great successes. Thank you Silina. Anticipating that participation would be lean in the summer months and looking forward to some down-time, the kitchen is closed until fall. She is working on a potential pastry course. If you would like to teach a course or have any suggestions, please contact Silina.

## Tonight's Meeting

**Tuesday, June 10, 7:30pm**

Guest Speaker: Kevin Hudkins, our contest photo judge

Topic: Thoughts on Composition in Photography

## Mark Your Calendar

### NWHS Regular Meeting

July 8, 7:30pm, Annual In-Club Show

Guest Speakers: Edith Scherk and Lorna Herchenson, Topic: Begonias NWHS Annual In-Club Show

**Annual In-Club Garden Tour & Pot-Luck Picnic**, Saturday, July 12

See article page 2

**Point Roberts Garden Club Garden Tour**, July 20, Self-guided tour

into 7 private properties, plus the Point's own community garden

To join the tour contact: Jennifer Urquhart, jmurquhart@yahoo.com or go to the website, www.pointrobertsgardenclub.org

**Maple Ridge Garden Club Country Garden Tour**, June 22, 9am-4pm

Contact: Gayle (604-467-2956) or Margaret (604-467-1885)

All proceeds will go to The Sunshine Foundation "Dream for Kids, Tickets:\$20

**Heritage Vancouver Garden Tour**, June 21-22, 10am-4pm. Self guided. Tickets on line \$35.

www.heritagevancouver.org

# New Westminster Horticultural Society

June 2014

## **NWHS GARDEN TOUR & POT-LUCK PICNIC:**

Saturday, July 12th. Rain or shine. The tour starts at about 1pm, depending on the number of gardens and travel times. The picnic starts at about 4:30. These are two separate events held consecutively. Partake in either or both.

**Still Looking for Gardens:** We now have 3 confirmed plus a few potentials. Six gardens would be perfect. This year we are concentrating on staying within New Westminster. We have locations in both Sapperton and the Brow of the Hill, so if you live within the city, we're sure the route can go right by your garden. Being on the tour is the best deadline you can have to get that project finished. Or, if you are just starting a project, share your vision with us. Please volunteer your garden. We really would like to visit it!

**The Tour:** The tour is primarily an event for club members but you are invited to bring along friends (adults only; no kids or pets). There is no sign-up sheet. The map & itinerary will be available at the July meeting or through Audrey. Only hard copies will be available as it is considered your "ticket". The gardens are visited according to the set timed itinerary on the map. This enables those, who are opening their gardens, to view the other gardens.

**The Picnic:** The following picnic is again primarily for club members but family & friends (kids OK but no pets) are welcome. The sign-up sheet for the picnic is the pot-luck sheet. Tonight, it is at the head table. On it, indicate the number of people in your party plus what you plan to bring. When indicating your pot-luck dish, please specify details of the dish, ie. instead of just checking salad specify 'Greek'. Audrey will have the pot-luck sheet after tonight's meeting. The picnic is in the Barnes' garden.

**TREASURER'S REPORT - May**  
Total Revenues: \$ 2098.25  
Total Expenses: \$ 392.98  
See the bulletin board for Ellen's detailed report.

## **JULY IS SHOW MONTH:**

If you haven't yet picked up your July Show Schedule, get one from the head table or through Audrey via email. Remember this is not a cut-throat competition but just a bit-more-formal way of sharing your garden with club members than the Bring to Share. The schedule lists the classes and hints on selecting and exhibiting your exhibits. Please read and follow the class details. We hope that everyone will enter at least one class. If you don't have a garden, get creative with Floral Art. Materials used in those exhibits need not to be grown by the exhibitor. Entering adds a bit of spice to viewing the showbench.

### **Hints for successful showing:**

- 1. Read the schedule:** There must be something listed that you are growing. It is amazing how much more you will appreciate your flowers and vegetables while you are evaluating them as show exhibits. Even if that flower doesn't develop as you expect, bring it in. We are all exposed to the same weather.
- 2. Cutting your exhibits:** If possible, gather your cut materials early in the morning and keep them, in water, in a cool dark place until just before the meeting. Vegetables can be harvested and wrapped in a damp towel and refrigerated. Make a list what you put in the fridge so you don't leave it at home!
- 3. Organize your entries:** There will be a bit of a crush around the sign-in table for the exhibit slips. It is handy to know how many exhibit slips you will need before you sign in. You can enter a maximum of 2 exhibits per class. If you have a lot of exhibits, it might be less stressful to prepare them ahead of the meeting i.e. have them already in the vases. The slip is easy to fill out but if you need help with it or if you are uncertain as to where to place your exhibit, just ask one of the show personnel.
- 4. Be on time:** Set up time is from 6:45 to 7:25. Entries not on the show table by 7:25, cannot be judged.
- 5. Relax:** Enjoy the show. It is all for fun.

## **WATERING RESTRICTIONS HAVE**

**STARTED:** Lawn sprinkling restrictions are now in effect. Lawns can be watered only between 4am and 9am. No evening sprinkling allowed. Odd numbered residential addresses water on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Even numbered addresses on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. If you picked up a fridge magnet last meeting, it has incorrect hours.

*"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece" — Claude Monet*

## **PAR GAR**

Has this weather resulted in a bumper crop in your vegetable patch? The folks at Plant a Row, Grow a Row will gladly receive your offerings of excess produce on behalf of the Food Bank. Sunday morning drop off starts on June 22, from 8:30 to 9:15am at the St Thomas More Colligate entrance on 12th Avenue, Burnaby.

## **NEW CLUB T-SHIRT**

The design is finalized! Looks great! Check out the sample shirt tonight and order yours. \$22.00 for most, a bit more for XXL.

## **Contacts**

**Julia Goulden-President**  
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**Ellen Berg-Treasurer**, 604-525-7827 or  
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**Audrey Barnes - Contests, Garden Tour and Picnic**  
604-526-8284 (Before 8pm) or  
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**Lea McDonald - Contests**  
604-942-9416  
**Dan Tessaro - At Meeting Plant Sale -**  
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**Merril Hall-Garden Gals** 604-526-4324  
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