

Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

December 2015

PARTY PARTY PARTY:

Welcome to a night of socializing with your garden club friends. This evening took months in preparation. We hope you enjoy it immensely. A few thank-yous (please excuse any overlooking): to your club executive who have been planning the evening for months; to Austin Caterers for the feast; to New West Parks Greenhouse for growing the best poinsettias; to Linda Turnbull (never one to have idle hands) for the hand-made elves; to Merrill Hall for her calligraphy; to Micheline Ipperseil and Jocelyn Dore-Larson for find-tuning the décor; to Audrey Barnes for creating the trivia quiz; to the numerous elves who created the fantastic prizes at craft-central and in their own homes; and to everybody here—it ain't no party if nobody comes!

Our Christmas Charity:

Last month the membership voted the recipient of profits from the Christmas Draw will be the Group of 5 and Friends Benevolent Society. This non-profit group was formed in 2010 with the purpose of raising funds to provide equipment and educational support for Royal Columbian Hospital. By 2013, they raised enough money for the purchase of two camera heads for orthopedic surgery. Their current project is a children's play area, complete with a monkey mural, in the main concourse of the hospital. This quiet play area will ease the stress for young children who, by necessity, have to accompany someone receiving treatment. It will make the area more family friendly.

CONTESTS:

Thank you to everyone who entered the Container & Photo Contests. We were overwhelmed in November with the number of container entries—Seventeen! Probably a record. Lots of ideas to try in our own gardens. Tonight you see the three you picked as outstanding. Likewise the photo contest had so many entries, that our judge picked Honorable Mentions in three of the four categories. (Sorry, Honorable Mention gets glory only—no envelope). **Speaking of Envelopes**—they contain money. Each first place gets \$15; second, \$10; third, \$5. Just a bit of a

perk for excelling at getting out there and photographically recording your & other gardens and then sharing what you saw with us. Thank you.

The 2016 Colour in the Garden will be Orange:

This can range from pale peach to deep rust. Remember your photos must be from a garden with 'garden' being a place cultivated by humans. Fall colour in the wilderness does not qualify.

THE WINNERS ARE:

Container Contest:

1. Linda Turnbull
2. Gillian Escalante & Susan Tamkin

Photo Contest:

Colour in the Garden (Burgundy)

1. Trudy Findlay
2. Diane Escalante
3. Brenda Fairfax

Garden Visitor:

1. Linda Turnbull
2. Gillian Escalante
3. Brenda Fairfax

Honorable Mention: Linda Turnbull

NWHS Garden:

1. Brenda Fairfax
2. Gillian Escalante
3. Diane Escalante

Honorable Mention: Linda Turnbull

Macro Image:

1. Audrey Barnes
2. Linda Turnbull
3. Marya McLellan

Honorable Mention: Linda Turnbull

OUR PHOTO CONTEST JUDGE:

Kevin Hudkins is the person who judges our photos. Check out his photos on the internet: www.flickr.com/photos/prestidigitize. Thank you Kevin for selecting which photos you consider to be the best and telling us why.

Kevin's General Comments on the 2015 entries:

Once again I have enjoyed looking through the submitted photographs, and choosing between the entries was in some cases very difficult (a compliment to the participants indeed). It was good to see that many photographers were using diagonal

Tonight's Meeting

NWHS Christmas Celebration
Tuesday, Dec 9, 6pm-9pm
Buffet dinner 6:30-7:30pm

Mark Your Calendar

NWHS First Regular Meeting of 2015

Tuesday, Feb 9, 2015

Memberships due & payable (\$15)

VanDusen Garden Festival of Lights & Enchanted Nights at Bloedel.

One admission fee doubles for entrance to both venues.

Info: www.vandusengarden.org

TREASURER'S REPORT - Nov 2015

Total Revenue: \$709.20

Total Expenses: \$452.30

Contacts

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Janet Butts: Fund-raising

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Annemarie Mobach: Fund-raising

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lines, the rule of thirds and visual balance to make their compositions more effective. I would encourage all participants to consider these aspects when framing an image, and try to think about what you want the subject to be, and where it should be placed in the composition to keep the viewer's eye moving through the image.

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.

New Westminster Horticultural Society December 2015

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.

Your 2016 Executive:

The crew that will lead us through
2016 were elected by acclamation.

President: Julia Goulden

Vice President: Lourna Cloutier

Treasurer: Ellen Berg

Secretary: Mary Barnard

Members-at-Large:

Deirdre Antonelli

Terri Clark-Kveton

Trudy Findlay

Joy Makepeace-Smith

Lea McDonald

Being Involved when not on Executive:

If you have any yearnings to be just a little bit involved, step right up! Just approach the person who is in charge your area of interest. It just takes a few minutes of conversation to convince them of your sincerity. Many hands makes work light.

Fund-raising Committee:

This committee oversees all the fund-raising done by the club. This doesn't mean its members need to be in charge—but that they are willing to serve as back-up if needed. Experienced personnel already run many of the events—but not all of them. The committee also discusses possible new ways to raise money. A few of the committee's long term members have decided it to be time to move onward to other endeavors—this leaves the door wide open for you if you are interested! Please contact Janet Butts or Annemarie Mobach, the committee's co-chairs, if you think you would like to participate. For phone/email see 'Contacts' column.

REFLECTIONS ON A LONG, HOT SUMMER:

We asked and you answered. What a varied response. Some members wrote long dissertations, others gave a brief observation. Thank you to Linda Turnbull, Louise Meville, Heather McKenzie, Audrey Barnes, Monica Mowat, Dan Tessaro, Aldina Isbister and Diane Escalante who told us how it was.

Glad I had done this:

(LT) I was worried that my mature plants had created too much shade but luckily the shade slowed the drying of a lot of my perennials and grass.

(AB) Luckily I replaced the exhausted soil in several areas with composted mulch in the spring. This greatly enhanced the water retention around the plants.

Watering:

(LM) With so many plants, many still in pots, it was hard to give them enough moisture to keep them healthy. Through June and July and part of August, I did little but watering by hand and sprinkler. I'd start at 6 am and still be going at it at noon. A friend visiting for a month knew that we would do no touring of Vancouver area until afternoons. It was the worst of gardening years; we didn't use the yard, patio, nothing for summer relaxation - water as much as I could stand and leave for the rest of the day, sick of it all!!!

(HMc) Then the heat hit. The sprinkler system was turned off, the drip irrigation system was left on and I had to hand water with a hose every day. I actually started to really pay attention to my garden again.

(AB) I do not do heat well. When the heat hit, I was immobile. A blob. I would hand water with the hose early in the morning and then leave it. Let the plants fare on their own. We'll see how they survived by their appearance or non-appearance next year.

Chafers:

(LM) The crows and raccoons discovered the "no-water" zone and every chafer beetle/larvae in town set up house there, offering up the invitation to stop and chew. The feast was on! I'd never had the problem with them before but our whole block is now one big dust bowl along the boulevards. Only the new lawn turf for a new place across the street is free of them for now. The chafers seemed to know that the city landscaping contract went to a company who laid next to no good topsoil down when they put down our turf and now it looks terrible. The chafers easily found a place to dig in. Some days there are about 3 dozen crows out there working

on the boulevard bugs. Some have gone on to test my neighbours' lawns too, owned by people less paranoid about lack of water than I am. They are now suffering. We go out with horns, clappers and throw old limes and lemons at them. My grandson even spread some dried up old mini marshmallows over the boulevard to hopefully stick their beaks together. The marshmallows all disappeared, overnight (editor's note: maybe considered a treat by raccoons); I guess the crows left for a bit to clean out their bills! For a time!

(MM) One theory is that with the heat and lawn watering restrictions, the chafers were able to devour the roots while the soil was too hard for the animals and birds to dig. Then comes the rain and the animals/birds party.

(AB) I welcome the birds and animals even if part of my lawn has disappeared. With every chafer they eat, that is one less to lay 400 eggs next year.

Specific Plants:

(DT) Rosemary flowered in March. Summer was too dry for the dahlias but they took off with fall rains. Buckets of tomatillos

(AI) The acorn and buttercup squash loved the heat.

(DE) Anything with a running root did well (phygelius, ginger, anemones). Minimal watering was needed at the BARAGA plot. Daylilies were at least a month early.

(AB) My Yuletide camellia has flowered when it is supposed to—in November. It is over 10 years old and has always flowered in the spring. Also, the blooms seem to be about 50% larger.

(AB) Weeds seemed to survive and some even thrived. I did find it easy to pull out trailing clover from the lawn with the top growth of the lawn being dead. Suprisingly dandyions pulled out easily - I assume that was because the tap root had shrunk.

(HMc) Some plants went dormant. The new witch hazel I planted in winter was not happy, nor the hydrangea. The callicarpa looked awful but I decided to not worry about it and just keep watering.

Plans for next year:

(HMc) Good-bye soaker hoses, hello more drip irrigation. We're considering installing a small cistern to collect run-off from the house and garage and use it for watering. Using flow meters we determined the amount of water used for gardening. A small one (available on Annacis Island) should be sufficient. This assumes no drought conditions.