

# Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

December 2016

## **"BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE. IT'S UP TO YOUR KNEES OUTSIDE."**

### **SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT:**

Talk about suspense with this snow and cold! This computer automatically brings up the Weather Network when it is turned on—usually the revised forecast is completely different. But you're here, so the finale must be what we wanted. Welcome to what is probably the coolest Christmas party we have ever had. So glad you made it.

As with all major club events, there is a huge crew behind tonight's celebrations (please excuse any omissions—that eggnog is just so good!). They include:

- Your club executive who started the planning of the evening months ago
- Austin Caterers for the feast
- New West Parks Greenhouse for growing the best poinsettias
- Linda Turnbull for the feathery angel party favors
- Merril Hall for her calligraphy
- Micheline Ipperseil for fine-tuning the décor
- Audrey Barnes for creating the quiz
- A multitude of elves who created the prizes at craft central and in their own homes
- Paul Larose & Frank Seki who are our bartenders tonight
- Sharon Seki, Carla Sharpe and Claude leDoux, for running the Christmas Draw

Many thanks to you all, the party just wouldn't be the same without you.

### **OUR CHRISTMAS CHARITY:**

In November, members voted The Lookout Society to be the recipient of half of the proceeds of our Christmas draw. How very appropriate this year. They provide housing and a range of support services to adults with low or now income. As we are snug in our houses during this cold snap, it is hard to really envision what it is like to be homeless right now. We are so fortunate. The society operates with minimal barriers between the people it serves and the assistance it offers. Securing appropriate housing is the first and most important step in achieving responsible independence. Thank you for being so generous in the purchase of draw tickets.

**THE FOOD BANK:** Thank you for your non-perishable donation. If you missed the collection bins, they are in the foyer. If you forgot your offering tonight, just drop it off at Audrey's (117 Seventh Ave) back kitchen door before the weekend. She won't be delivering the food until next week. Many thanks. Let's share our wealth.

### **YOUR CHRISTMAS ANGEL:**

She of the busy fingers, Linda Turnbull, created the Christmas angel party favours. She tried to follow the club mandate of being environmentally conscious. Although some of the angels have curly doll's hair, most have hair made of wool, moss or paper. Other "ingredients" include pine cones, wood and chicken feathers. Even the bags can be recycled. Well done, Linda.

### **END OF THE YEAR—AND AN ERA:**

In 2017 a new meeting refreshment crew will take over from Dawn Dutrizac-Larose & Paul Larose. Dawn & Paul have stepped down after 15 years of making sure we have beverages and treats to enjoy every month—soliciting treat donations, lugging in the equipment, setting up, brewing coffee & other beverages and cleaning up after we enjoyed the offerings—with smiles. Dawn and Paul, you two definitely deserve some down time. From every one of us who enjoyed a sip and a nibble, thank you very much.

### **A WORD ABOUT HOT-MELT GLUE:**

If you have ever used a hot melt glue gun, you know what a handy tool it is. The gun heats a plastic stick until the plastic melts. While melted, the plastic is extruded from the gun and applied where you want adhesion. When it cools, the two things are glued together. The elves used glue guns a lot when creating the draw prizes. Usually this is fine. However in extreme cold, the plastic can become brittle and adhesion can fail. The weather tonight is definitely in the "extreme cold" category. Treat your prize gently while taking it home and it should be OK. THINK: FRAGILE WHILE COLD! If you do have something that comes apart, contact Audrey and she will reattach it for you.

## Tonight's Meeting

**NWHS Christmas Celebration**  
Tuesday, Dec 13, 6pm-9pm  
Buffet dinner 6:30-7:30pm

## Mark Your Calendar

**NWHS First Regular Meeting of 2017**  
Tues, Feb 14, 2017  
Speaker to be announced  
Memberships due & payable (\$15)

**VanDusen Garden Festival of Lights**  
Until Jan 2, 2017. Daily except for Christmas. Your admission includes a ride on the carousel. To avoid the ticket line-up and save a bit of money, pre-purchase your tickets on line. [www.vandusengarden.org](http://www.vandusengarden.org)

**Northwest Flower & Garden Show**  
Feb 22-26, 2017; Seattle



### **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.*

# New Westminster Horticultural Society December 2016

## CONTESTS:

After the huge numbers of entries in the Photo & Container Contests in 2015, we reverted to "normal" level of participation in 2016. Which is OK but it would be good to see what more people are doing in their gardens and what they have witnessed. The container entries make me think "Next year, I'm really going to plan my containers instead of just tossing the same old plants together". Well, the containers this year have made me renew this pledge once again. Do we have some good photographers in the club? Definitely "yes"! Thank you to all who entered.

## The Winners Are:

Everyone who entered. The people taking home envelopes are as follows. First gets \$15, Second \$10, Third \$5.

## Visitors in the Garden

1. Linda Turnbull
2. Brenda Fairfax
3. Marian Cook

## Garden Colour: Orange

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

## NWHS Garden View

1. Trudy Findlay
2. Brenda Fairfax
3. Linda Turnbull

## Macro Image

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

## Container Contest:

1. Linda Turnbull
2. Sharon Seki
3. Linda Turnbull

**OUR PHOTO CONTEST JUDGE:** Kevin Hudkins, once again, served as our judge. Have you checked out his photos on the internet? [www.flickr.com/photos/prestidigitize](http://www.flickr.com/photos/prestidigitize). Pretty impressive! Thank you, Kevin, for utilizing your expertise in judging our photos and commenting on those you deemed "the best".

## Kevin's General Comments on the 2016 Entries:

As usual, I have enjoyed looking through the submitted photographs, and choosing between the entries was in some cases very difficult. This year it was particularly true for the Macro category: there were some very fine images submitted. Many photographers were using diagonal lines, the rule of thirds and visual balance to make their compositions more effective. I would like to remind

all participants to try and view their compositions critically while setting up the image, and try some variations while shooting any particular scene. Consider what you want the subject to be, where it should be placed in the composition, and whether there are visual distractions you could eliminate with slightly different framing.

I would also suggest that you make it a habit to check that your camera chose the right area to focus on: this is especially true with macro work, where the depth of field is so shallow, but also applies to any photograph you take. It's worth a moment to zoom in on the camera back to check, and re-take the image if needed.

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

## 2017 COLOUR IN THE GARDEN: WHITE

Any photo taken after Oct 1, 2016 is eligible for entry into the 2017 Photo Contest. Consider the snow a gift. Photographing white can be tricky—try some different exposures. The snow might offer some neat macro shots as well. For both categories, Colour & Macro, the image can be of any garden with "garden" being a place cultivated by humans. A wilderness is not considered a garden for our contests.

## FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE:

This small group (who would love to become a larger group by 1 or 2) oversees all fund-raising done by the club. They might not be directly in charge of a fund-raising activity but offer support when needed. They assist Audrey with the Silent Auction. They are the folk in charge of the At-Meeting Sale and the annual Boulevard Plant Sale. The busiest time is just prior to and during the annual sale. The group meets 5 or 6 times a year. Always on the agenda of these meetings are discussions on other possible club fund-raisers. Every one of us should give the members of this group a pat on the back and say thanks for their efforts. At present, Annemarie Mobach and Janet Butts co-chair the committee. Other current members are Terri Clark-Kveton, Lorna Cloutier, Jean Johnson and Joan Stevenson. If you would like to join, contact Annemarie or Janet. A commitment of one year is expected. Thanks, team, for all that you do.

## AGM RE-CAP:

Motion to update the constitution to be gender inclusive: passed unanimously.

2017 Executive positions: all nominated were acclaimed.

## Your 2017 NWHS Executive:

**President:** Julia Goulden

**Vice-president:** Lorna Cloutier

**Secretary:** Mary Barnard

**Treasurer:** Ellen Berg

**Members-at-Large:**

Anna Camporese Diane Perry

Terri Clark-Kveton Lea McDonald

Trudy Findlay

## TREASURER'S REPORT - Nov 2016

**Total Revenue: \$675.75**

**Total Expenses: \$1138.47**

## Contacts

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## EVIL WEED:

Unlike in the U.S.A., our advance polls were accurate: It was a landslide victory for Morning Glory (Bindweed) as our most hated garden weed. Our handsome poster boy, dandelion, was way down in the votes—a pretty face doesn't always win. The plan was, in 2017, to write an article about eradication of the different weeds but research revealed that manual removal is the best way to get rid of them in an ecological manner. Keep your eyes peeled and pull them at first sight. Good luck.

