

Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

June 2016

BIG SHOW NEXT MONTH:

How big depends upon your participation! Look at the Show Schedule. Under Flowers and Veg-Herbs-Fruits, the classes are organized from most specific to most general. For example, for Flowers, the schedule starts with listing specific blooms, then proceeds to “any annual not listed above” and finally to “any other flower not listed above”. Check to see if your flower fits a specific category first—if the answer is “no”, proceed to the appropriate more general class. Double check the guidelines and definitions at the top of the page to make sure your entry is as scheduled. Good luck! It is much more fun to enter than to just view the exhibits. You can enter 2 exhibits in each class providing your exhibits are botanically distinct.

If the weather is hot on show day, pick your exhibits early in the morning and store them in water in the coolest and darkest part of your abode. Pick that flower not quite open instead of one in full bloom. Come evening, it will probably be the better of the two. Gently wrap vegetables in a moist paper towel and put them in your fridge—make sure you make a big sign to yourself “check fridge”. It is so easy to leave things behind when they are tucked away. For the floral art, check the “droopability” of your vegetative material a few days in advance. It is amazing how a leaf can look so sturdy and spry when attached to the plant but quickly declines once picked.

Class 19: Dish Garden: A planted scene.

We had a bit of oral discussion about this class last month. If entry numbers warrant it, the class will be split into fairy gardens and non-fairy gardens. If you check the internet for fairy gardens there are some fantastical examples—many with very little vegetative material. For our show, the emphasis will be on growing material used (after all, we are gardeners!). A fairy garden is a miniature garden with a specific theme—a home for fairies—a place for fairies to live or visit.

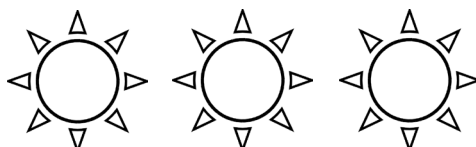
If you are looking for accessories, check out dollar stores. Not all dollar stores stock the same items. You may find what you are looking for at a fraction of the exorbitant prices that garden centers ask. Be selective in your non-vegetative accessories. Often less is more. Most important, be consistent in scale between your plant material and your non-plant accessories. Plan before you plant. Select mini or dwarf plants that will not increase in size quickly. For our competition, any dish garden that has even one accessory related to fairies will be considered a fairy garden. Judging will be based on aesthetics: the scale of the plant material (and accessories), the health of the plants and the overall cohesiveness of the scene. Have fun. We can barely wait to see what you create.

HERITAGE HYDRANGEAS DISPLAY GARDEN TOUR:

Monday, July 4th. Meet at 11am at 13970 – 34th Ave, South Surrey. This is just a few blocks off the road to Crescent Beach. The sign-up sheet is at the fireplace table tonight and with Trudy Findlay after tonight. Deadline to sign-up is June 27. This place is fantastic! Not a bunch of your common mop-tops but 130 award winning hydrangeas. ... and there will be plants for sale. Check the website for some pre-visit drooling and availability list of specimens for sale. The day includes a tour of the garden and refreshments—and shopping if you desire. www.HeritageHydrangeas.com.

YIKES! HOW DID WE DO THAT!

Last month, when we applauded the members for holding such a successful plant sale, we forgot to emphasize that much of the sale success was due to the overall organization by members of the club’s Fundraising Committee members. They made it so easy for the rest of us to volunteer. Thanks gals.



Tonight’s Meeting

Tuesday, June 14, 7:30pm
Speaker: Julia Commons, of Hives for Humanity, on “Bee Keeping”
Honey & bee products for sale

Mark Your Calendar

Branching Out: Plants in New Westminster’s History

June 2 to Nov 13, daily 10am-5pm,
Thur 10am-8pm
3rd floor, New Westminster Museum,
Anvil Centre
From Stump City to Green City, this exhibition traces the ways plants have affected local citizens. Learn how to identify local trees, find out about the Royal City Rose and more.
www.anvilcentre.ca

Garden Days: UBC Botanical Gardens’ 100th Anniversary Family Weekend

June 17, 18, 19
6804 SW Marine Drive, Vancouver
2 for 1 admission
Bring your lunch to picnic on the Contemporary Lawn
Enjoy birthday cake daily at noon;
learn about butterflies, birds and bees
from 11am to 2pm daily
www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca; 604-822-4208

Summer Solstice Celebration at SOL Garden

Mon, June 20, 4-6pm
South side of Douglas College
Coquitlam, 1250 Pine Tree Way
Free admission (see article)

Vancouver Rose Society 64th Rose Show & Sale

Sun, June 26, 12:30-4:30pm
VanDusen Gardens Floral Hall
Guest speakers; roses & bouquets for sale. Free admission
www.vancouverrosesociety.org

Heritage Hydrangeas Display Garden Visit

Mon, July 4, 11:00am
13970 – 34th Ave, South Surrey
(see article)

NWHS Regular Meeting

Tues, July 12, 7:30
Speaker to be announced
Our Annual In-Club Show

NWHS Annual Garden Tour & Picnic
Sat, July 23, afternoon/early evening.

New Westminster Horticultural Society June 2016

NWHS GARDEN TOUR & PICNIC:

Sat, July 23. These rain-or-shine events are, on the whole, "members sharing with other members" events. Please consider opening your garden for other members to enjoy. Share a favorite dish with others at the pot-luck picnic. The tour and picnic are two separate events. Participate in either or both. More details next month.

The Tour:

Please can we visit your garden? At the moment we have only two potential open-gardens: one in Burnaby and one in New West. I'm sure we can design the route to include your garden. Please talk with Audrey and see her smile. The tour map and itinerary (gardens are visited in a set timed sequence) will be available at the July meeting. The map is your ticket for you and your adult friends to enjoy the tour. No children or pets please. No electronic map will be available. Contact Audrey after the July meeting if you need a map.

The Picnic:

The sign-up sheet is here! At the fireplace table this evening. On it, indicate how many are in your party and the type of food offering you will be donating. Please be specific. For example, instead of just ticking under "salad", specify the type of salad you will be bring. This will help us eliminate the possibility of 5 potato salads on the table. The club supplies beverages. If your plans change after you have signed up, please tell Audrey. She will have the sign-up sheet at non-meeting times. Knowing numbers is important as we want to make sure we have enough chairs—and wine. The picnic is open to all members and their families. Kids are invited but the event is definitely adult oriented. No pets please.

GOT STUFF YOU NO LONGER WANT?

Does the hot weather find you in the basement, sorting through items you no longer want? Well, as long as they are not fragrant, or are not too large, Audrey is willing to store them for the club's October Silent Auction—or for the Christmas crafting. If she is not around, leave them at her sheltered kitchen door. If she is around, she'll help lug them into the basement. She lives at 117 Seventh Ave. Park in the lane. Many thanks.

TREASURER'S REPORT - May 2016

Total Revenue: \$2637.50

(includes plant sale proceeds)

Total Expenses: \$226.56

See bulletin board for Ellen's report.

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION AT SOL GARDEN:

Celebrate the longest day of the year by joining the Douglas College's Institute of Urban Ecology for the grand opening of the Sustainability, Outreach & Learning (SOL) Garden. This garden is to be a new hub for learning through the college's UNIBUG program. The evening includes the ribbon-cutting ceremony, a tour of the garden, hands-on activities for children and light refreshments. For more event details, phone 604-527-5522. For more information on UNIBUG (User Network for Insect Biology in the Urban Garden) check out the website, www.unibug.ca.

PLANT A ROW, GROW A ROW:

The season-long drop-off for produce donations has begun. Please take your donation to the entrance of St. Thomas More Collegiate's main entrance on 12th Ave (just off Kingsway), between 8:30 and 9:15 on Sunday mornings. The clients of the New West Food Bank, especially the kids, thank you.

NEMATODES & WATERING RESTRICTIONS:

Did you know that the New West City offer of 50% off up to 2 packets of Nematodes ran out in just over one day? They handed out 250 coupons. So that deal is over but you can still use your NWHS membership card for 10% off at GardenWorks. GardenWorks expects their supply of Nematodes mid-July. You can pre-order them or take the chance that they will have a surplus over those pre-paid. Once you get your Nematodes they must be refrigerated and applied as soon as possible. Instructions on how to apply them comes with the packet. The most important thing is the soil must be wet for their survival and movement. Lawn must be watered consistently one week before application and for two weeks after application. This involves watering often. What about being at Stage 1 for lawn sprinkling? If you live in New Westminster, you are in luck. With your proof of nematode purchase, go to City Hall. At the Engineering Department (hours: Mon 8am-7pm; Tues-Fri 8am-5pm), you can get a three week watering permit. The permit can also be obtained at the Queensborough Community Centre which is open 7 days a week. Watering Permits must be obtained before Stage 3 Watering Restrictions are enacted. If you have a permit while we are at Stage 2, it is still valid until your three weeks are up even if we go to Stage 3 restrictions. There is no cost for the watering permit.

LAWN WATERING RESTRICTIONS:

Isn't this recent weather fantastic?—rain every few days. None of that being slave to the setting up the sprinklers so that the lawns don't go through the hell of 2015 ("Get an irrigation system." you say). Since May 15, Stage 1 Watering Restrictions have been in place.

Residential Lawn Sprinkling: Only the hours from 4am to 9am.

Even numbered

addresses:

- Mon, Wed, Sat

Odd numbered

addresses:

- Tues, Thurs, Sun



MOST HATED WEED:

As has been our custom for the last couple of years, we ask the members to give feedback. This year we want you to nominate your most hated garden weeds. In Nov, you get to vote for the worst villain. Anecdotes of encounters with the beasts are most welcome. Please talk with Audrey regarding this nefarious topic.

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