

Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

March 2016

WHAT'S COMING IN APRIL?

Showers? Well, maybe.
Bring to Share? YES!

April is the month of the **NWHS Spring Bring to Share**. It's an opportunity for you to bring something of gardening interest to the meeting and (hopefully) get feedback from your fellow club members. Tables, complete with signs, will be set-up for your exhibits at the fireplace end of the room. When you arrive with your exhibit, check in at the receiving table to get a slip (or more) and to get registered for the participation draw. Each exhibitor has a chance at one of three draws of \$5. It is hoped that, when viewing the exhibits, members will write down their feedback.

Suggestions of exhibits: The table signs give suggestions of what you might want to bring to share:

- **Garden Glory:** beautiful or unusual plants, blooms or foliage from your garden
- **Photos:** garden related
- **Great Tips:** can be from a book or magazine—or even a book or magazine that you recommend
- **Garden Design:** Info or questions, or even plans of what you intend to do or build
- **Plant identification:** bring in plant or leaf or photo
- **Insects:** please keep specimens contained
- **Weeds & Disease:** please keep infected materials enclosed in plastic
- **Other:** anything that doesn't fit in the other categories.

FUND-RAISING NEWS

by Janet Butts.

In-Club Plant Sale:

Boy, did this idea turn out to be a winner. It makes more money than any other single thing, so we'd like to make it better still. Here's how you can help:

- Volunteer to "man" the table once or twice a year. A very simple job. You arrive a bit early (7pm), receive the plants and other items from donors, guess at how much they should be sold for (usually 50¢ to \$2) and await the hordes.

- Most people buy before the meeting. If there is anything left, there's also the refreshment break. With two volunteers working together, you can trade off to get your snack.
- Donate items for the sale: Ideally these are garden related (plants, books, tools, planters) but other saleable items are welcome too.
- If you have a large item, or a plant in the ground, that is too big or unwieldy to move yourself, bring in a photo with your contact info attached.

Wish List:

This is an off-shoot of the In-Club Sale. Joan Stevenson is the facilitator. You tell Joan what you're hoping to find or acquire. She will let other club members know. If there is a match, Joan will play matchmaker.

Boulevard Plant Sale:

- More details next month, but the date is finalized. May 7, the day before Mother's Day.
- As you garden, plan which plants you want to donate.
- Plant donations should be planted up at least three weeks before the sale to ensure they are rooted.
- You might want to consider your plant donations or seed starts in light of Mother's Day gifts.
- In mid-April, if there's interest, we will have a mixed planter building day. More about this next meeting, but, again, consider seed starts.
- Tomatoes are BY FAR the most popular item. Can you start some tomato seeds?
- We would like to feature water-wise plants. You know your own plants—which are the most drought tolerant/ drought loving?
- If you have a specific job you like doing, tell them at the In-Club Sales Table and reserve it for yourself.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Feb 2016

Total Revenue: \$1939.00

Total Expenses: \$913.13

See bulletin board for full report.

Tonight's Meeting

Tues, Mar 8, 2016, 7:30pm

Speaker: Allan Ladha on "Garden Lighting"

Membership Renewals: only \$15

Mark Your Calendar

NWHS Regular Meeting

Tues, April 12, 7:30pm

Speaker: Mike Campbell on "Natural Garden Spaces"

He will have plants for sale Spring Bring to Share

PAR GAR Gardener's Party

Thurs, Mar 10, 6-9pm

St Thomas More Collegiate

7450 12th Ave, Burnaby (see article)

BC Council of Garden Clubs Spring Meeting & AGM

Sat, Mar 12, 8:30am-4pm

Firefighters' Banquet & Conference Centre

6515 Bonsar St, Burnaby

Registration is required for this event

Salmon Friendly Gardens Seminar

Sat, Mar 12, 10am-1:30pm

Township of Langley Civic Facility (see article)

Boulevard Gardens of New Westminster

On-going show by Garden Gals

Ends Apr 1, Anvil Centre

Bradner Flower Show

Apr 8, 9 & 10, 10am-5pm

Bradner Hall, 5305 Bradner Rd, Abbotsford

Admission: \$2

Hundreds of narcissi on display

NWHS Annual Boulevard Plant Sale

Sat, May 7

Plan your participation now.

Vancouver Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale

Sat, Mar 26, 9-5; Sun, Mar 27, 10-4

VanDusen Gardens Floral Hall

Admission adults \$7, seniors \$6

\$1 off coupon available at

www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca

Vancouver Dahlia Society Annual Tuber Sale

Sat, Apr 9, 10-4:30

VanDusen Gardens Floral Hall

New Westminster Horticultural Society March 2016

STILL LOOKING:

We know you are out there but we don't know who you are. We want to boost the membership in the fund-raising committee by 2 or 3. This will not involve you in humungous tasks but does require you to attend 5 to 6 meetings a year and stay on the committee for at least 1 year. Brainstorming is much more fun with a large group. We are only as good as our volunteers. Contact Annemarie or Janet.

SALMON FRIENDLY GARDEN

SEMINAR:

This excellent event is put on jointly by LEPS (Langley Environmental Partners Society) and the Township of Langley Grow Healthy Grow Smart program. Grow Healthy Grow Smart aims to reduce or eliminate the use of cosmetic pesticides and chemical fertilizers, for the benefit of salmon habitat, wildlife and pollinators. This year's speakers are David Tracy (Edible Landscaping), Richard Hallman (Fruit Tree Pruning) and Peter Isaacson (Natural Prevention of the European Chafer Beetle). FREE but pre-registration is required. Register by phoning 604-546-0338 or by emailing outreach@leps.bc.ca

FLORISSA:

Have you made your decision? Which flowers or vegetables do you plan to order from the Spring 2016 Florissa flyer? Place your order with Audrey (fireplace table). Deadline is Mar 22. We will gladly take your friends' orders as well. Cash or cheque payable to NWHS. Audrey will call you when she gets the filled club order—probably within a week of the deadline. This is a NWHS fundraiser, as we retain approx 50% of the order's value.

SKETCHING GROUP:

It is hard to imagine that it has been 10 years since the first meeting of the NWHS sketching club. Has it come a long way! If you want to partake in the activities of this keen group, contact Merril Hall for details. Don't be intimidated by the sophistication of some of their work. Beginners welcome. Everybody is on a learning curve. Also, even though the group currently has the moniker "Garden Gals", that could change. Guys welcome.

SEED EXCHANGE:

If you have collected/surplus purchased seeds to donate, leave them at the fireplace table. The seeds ready for your selection are on the Free Table in the foyer. Thank you, Richard, for manning the exchange.

PLANT A ROW, GROW A ROW GARDENER'S PARTY:

This is always a great evening. While its underlying theme is the promotion of donating excess home-grown (or purchased) produce to the New West Food Bank, it is open to anyone keen on growing vegetables. It is a fast-paced evening. Claude LeDoux is our host. Brian Minter, national spokesperson for PAR GAR, will zip in to kick off the event. Other speakers are Conway Lum (kiwi), Pasquale Porico (mason bees), June Hewlo (latest gardening gadgets from Lee Valley), Egan Davis (starting vegetables from seed). Tea, coffee & goodies will be served. Numerous door prizes and giveaways will be handed out. Admission for the evening: a non-perishable food donation to the Food Bank. See you there—6:00 sharp!

BCCGC BULLETIN:

The BC Council of Garden Clubs have always used their six-times-a-year publication, *The Bulletin*, as its main avenue of communication between the Council and its affiliated members. Through the years, depending on the current *Bulletin* editor, the content has varied. Often there were detailed articles of horticultural interest. For the past couple of years, it has mainly consisted of Council news and member reports. Alas, the final edition of the *Bulletin* has been printed (and, as always, is posted on our meeting bulletin board in the foyer). This is a sign of the times. This Saturday, as part of the AGM, there will be a vote to replace "Bulletin Editor" with "Communications Co-ordinator" as a Council executive position. The move is toward using electronic media (website, Facebook page, email) rather than the printed word. It is much cheaper and allows more immediate communication. There is also the undeniable fact that being *Bulletin* Editor was a high labor position and getting someone to volunteer was getting it harder every election. Now, any affiliated member can electronically post its own events on the Events Page and have it appear immediately. No need for getting that advertisement to the editor in time to get it in the appropriate issue. Any person, not necessarily just affiliated members, can access the Events Page and check out what's on. Check out and browse the website: www.bcgardenclubs.com. Friend BC Council on Facebook for the latest news: www.facebook.com/bcgardenclubs. You might find additional clubs that pique your interest. Special note: Anna Camporese spent a term on Council executive as *Bulletin* Editor. She created fantastic issues.

WEST COAST SEEDS:

The West Coast Seeds catalogue is a tomb of vegetable gardening information. Check out their website: www.westcoastseeds.com. It's even better! Sign-up for their e-newsletter, "Good Gardening News". Check the top toolbar on the website to sign-up.

LEE VALLEY SEMINARS:

We all know that Lee Valley has the most "droolsome" things in their stores. Their catalogues are a pleasure to peruse. Have you attended one of their in-store seminars? They are an excellent way to familiarize oneself with a project—make a "maybe I'll do" task not so daunting. In response to the horrendous water situation of 2015, there are several on irrigation systems. At the Coquitlam store: "Drip and Low-Flow Irrigation Systems" is on Mar 22, Apr 13; "Very Low Pressure Irrigation" on Apr 12; "Container Plants for Your Porches & Decks" on Apr 5. There is a fee attached to the seminars. As they are limited in size, all your questions will be answered. The Lee Valley website is www.leevalley.com. Sign-up for their newsletter by clicking the top toolbar. Seminar listings can be found under "Company Info" on the left toolbar.

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