

Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

December 2017

“PARTY TIME”

Time to sit back and enjoy the company of NWHS friends. This evening is the result of efforts by a slew of very talented people.

If some of the names listed below seem familiar, it is because they come forward again & again to create “club happenings”. Thank you all.

- Your NWHS executive. These are the folk who really run the show—tonight and all year long!
- Austin Caterers for the feast
- New West Parks Greenhouse for the beautiful poinsettia
- Linda Turnbull for the “star” party favours
- Merril Hall for her calligraphy
- Micheline Ipperseil for the finishing touches on the décor
- Audrey Barnes for creating the trivial trivia quiz
- The multitude of elves who created the draw prizes at craft central in their own homes
- Frank Seki and Dan Tessaro who are our bartenders tonight
- Sharon Seki, Carla Sharp and Claude leDoux for running the draw.

What a generous-with-their-time crowd. Thank you.

OUR CHRISTMAS DRAW RECIPIENT:

In Nov, members voted, not for a charity but for an upstart community project, to receive proceeds from our Christmas Draw. Our donation of \$400 kick-starts the fundraising for the Richard McBride School Garden. This school has students from K to grade 5. The school has started a gardening club but, at the moment, no place to actually garden. The aim is to eventually have a garden bed for every class. Ten 4x8 beds will give each of the 20 divisions a 4x4 area to cultivate. They will be located on a currently desolate area of the schoolground, thus beautifying the schoolgrounds while providing for outdoor learning areas. To rectify the oft recurring problem of such gardens going into decline when school is not in session, the plan is to work with posAbilities Aegis (which engages people with developmental disabilities

in meaningful activities) in simple summer maintenance and watering. Lord Tweedsmuir and New West Secondary have similar garden projects.

THE FOOD BANK: Thank you for your non-perishable donation. The collection bins are in the foyer. If you forgot your offering tonight, just drop it off it 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 good fortune.



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.*

TREASURER’S REPORT - Nov 2017
Total Revenue: \$719.85
Total Expenses: \$1078.79

Tonight’s Meeting

NWHS Christmas Celebration
Tuesday, Dec 12, 6pm-9pm
Buffet dinner 6:30-7:30

Mark Your Calendar

VanDusen Garden Festival of Lights
Ongoing until Jan 7 (closed Dec 25)
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.vandusenfestivaloflights.ca

Northwest Flower & Garden Festival

(also known as “the show”)
Feb 7-11, Seattle
Buy early-bird tickets on-line.
www.flowershow.com
In past years, Bert Garbuio (604-299-6876) has organized a bus trip for the first day of the show. The cost varies with the exchange rate. The bus leaves North Van at 7am and does one other stop in Surrey. Included are bus transport to and from the show, show admission and a stop at an all-you-can-eat buffet in Mt Vernon on the return trip. You get to enjoy 4 to 5 hours at the show, depending on the traffic. If you are interested, please wait until Jan to call Bert. He won’t be getting down to organizing it until then.

NWHS First Regular Meeting of 2018

Tues, Feb 13, 2018
Speaker to be announced
Memberships due & payable (\$15)

THANK YOU, JULIA:

Tonight is Julia Goulden’s last meeting as our club president. It is always great to go out with a party! Julia has been stalwart, leading the club through it’s post big-plant sale evolution. She, with her executive and fundraising committees, have done a great job keeping the club financially stable. So, Julia...sit back, put up your feet, sip a glass of wine, browse those seed catalogues. You did good. We thank you for the 6 years that you spent at the helm. Well done!

New Westminster Horticultural Society

December 2017

CONTESTS:

Yes, we do have some talented people in our club. Some excellent images in the photo contest. Many of the photos are of transitory happenings, much more vivid when seen visually, than to hear about verbally (or not at all). The container contest entries contained some real gems. Lots of ideas we can steal for our own containers. Thank you for all who shared via the contests. As is the nature of contests, there are people who take home First (\$15), Second (\$10) and Third (\$5) prizes. Congratulations to all.

The Winners:

PHOTO CONTEST

Visitors in the Garden

1. Brenda Fairfax
2. Paul Larose
3. Linda Turnbull

Garden Colour: Orange

1. Paul Larose
2. Brenda Fairfax
3. Linda Turnbull

NWHS Garden View

1. Brenda Fairfax
2. Audrey Barnes
3. Brenda Fairfax

Honorable mention: Gillian Escalante

Macro Image

1. Gillian Escalante
2. Dawn Dutrizac-Larose
3. Brenda Fairfax

Honorable mention: Linda Turnbull

CONTAINER CONTEST

1. Terri Clark-Kveton
2. Gillian Escalante & Linda Turnbull

JUDGING THE CONTEST: If you were at the Nov meeting, you got to view all the container contest entries and to vote for your favorite. Tonight you get to see the cream of the crop. All photo entries are posted on the wall. They were judged by to Kevin Hudkins, an excellent photographer. If you have not yet viewed his photos on the internet, do so. www.flickr.com/photos/prestigitize. An enjoyable way to spend a rainy or snowy or just any day.

Kevin's General Comments on the 2017 Photo Contest Entries:

As usual, I have enjoyed looking through the submitted photographs, and choosing between the entries was in some cases very difficult. Once again this year it was nice to see many photographers using diagonal lines, the rule of thirds and visual balance to make their compositions more effective. When the elements of an

image are placed well it creates a visual flow that takes the viewer through the frame in an intentional way. In a similar vein, areas that are visually distracting interrupt this flow and make the image feel less fluid. 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 a 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 was happy to see so many images had good exposure and focus. The exposure was particularly important with the colour choice this year: white is tricky to photograph so that you keep the brightness but still preserve the details of the texture.

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.

2017 COLOUR IN THE GARDEN: PURPLE

You should have fun with this one. "Purple" includes images of pale mauve to deep royal purple. Besides "pure purple", hues with tints of red and blue are also included. Kevin will be looking for the best depiction of purple in a garden. Your photos can be taken in any garden. This colour choice should make for gorgeous wall décor next Dec. Photos taken Oct 1, 2017 onward are eligible for entry in the 2018 contest.

AGM RE-CAP:

As expected, the simple motions update the wording of our constitution to make it consistent with previous changes to the constitution passed unanimously. In the election for the 2018 executive positions, all nominated were acclaimed.

YOUR 2017 NWHS EXECUTIVE:

President: Lorna Cloutier
Vice-president: Diane Perry
Secretary: Mary Barnard
Treasurer: Ellen Berg
Members-at-Large:
Anna Camporese, Terri Clark-Kveton, Trudy Findlay, Terry Koziel, Lea McDonald

Contacts

Lorna Cloutier: President

604-524-1942 or

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Diane Perry: Vice-President

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Ellen Berg-Treasurer

604-525-7827 or

ellen@newwesthortsociety.org

Audrey Barnes: Food Bank

604-526-8284 before 8pm or

audrey@newwesthortsociety.org

HOW DO I CARE FOR AMARYLLIS ONCE IT'S FINISHED BLOOMING?

(reprinted from Florissa' Flower Blog, Dec 7, 2017)

Remove faded blooms from the top of the stem, and cut only the stem back to the top of the bulb's neck. Leave the strappy foliage growing from the bulb. Place the potted bulb in a window filled with bright indirect light, and water it on a regular basis for at least 12-16 weeks or through the summer months. Fertilize it twice a month with a water soluble fertilizer.

In late August, when the foliage yellows and becomes floppy, cut it back to the top of the bulb's neck. It's time to stop watering and fertilizing and allow the soil to dry out, as the bulb has entered dormancy. Store the dry potted bulb in a cool dark place (12-15°C) such as a garage or basement for at least 8 weeks. The bulb's rest period should begin in early September and end in late October if you want blooms in time for Christmas.

The best timing to re-pot an amaryllis bulb is after dormancy, before bringing it back indoors to room temperature. Use fresh potting soil mix to enhance active growth. Amaryllis bulbs like to be snug in their pots and need larger pots once every 3-4 years. Once planted again in fresh soil, bring the pot indoors and place it in a bright and warm indoor location to start the blooming cycle again.

POINSETTIA CARE:

Did you win a poinsettia tonight? Lucky you! They are the ultimate in easy care seasonal plants. Once you get it home (without exposing it to cold) put it in a cool, bright location (i.e. not right by the heat register). Don't overwater it! Don't water it from above! Lift it. Does it feel light? Pour some lukewarm water in your sink, set in the plant, leave it for awhile. Overnight works well. That's it!