

Newsletter



WELCOME BACK - LET'S GET DIGGING!!!

Well....by now, from all that snow shovelling you are either a withering pile of exhausted pain or super-fit & ready to dig your garden.

After such an un-gardening winter it will be sure nice to concentrate on actual gardening. Hopefully your garden suffered minimal damage. So....when you were out there checking out the plants, did you make mental note of which you want to dig or divide for our plant sale? Handy hint: don't rely on a mental note—write it down. It is best to pot up the plants before their top growth starts to rejuvenate. The potted plants will be much healthier then. Also, it's a lot easier to do when you don't have a lot of leaves in the way. Our plant sale will be here in no time. Mark Sat, May 13 on your calendar. Getting those plants out of the ground early lets you contemplate the placing of those new plants you are itching to try.

LIFE MEMBERS:

This is our annual salute to those members who achieved 25 continuous years of paid NWHS membership. We have one new addition this year: Patti Kemp. Life members no longer have to pay the annual fee. Other life members are Elsie Ansdell, Audrey Barnes (honorary), Ellen Berg, Jane deMarchi, Gordon & Verna Mackintosh, Norma McFadden, Nina Osanic, Florence Ustare, Bev Yates.

YOUR 2017 NWHS EXECUTIVE:

President: Julia Goulden
Vice-President: Lorna Cloutier
Treasurer: Ellen Berg
Secretary: Mary Barnard
Members-at-Large:

Anna Camporese
Terri Clark-Kveton
Trudy Findlay
Diane Perry
Lea McDonald
Monica Mowat

MAY MEETING DATE CHANGE:

In May, instead of meeting on the 2nd Tuesday, we will be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday, May 16. Same location. Two reasons: the original date clashed with the provincial elections and, by having our meeting after the plant sale, any possible left-overs can be sold at our meeting. Mark your calendar now.

HAVING FUN WITH FUND-RAISING:

It all depends on how you look at it. Do you like being involved? Would you like to get more out of the club than just being passive in the crowd during the meetings? Do you want to meet new friends or "work" (in quotation marks because it is not really work) with your current friends while helping with the at-meeting sale? Well, just speak up. Talk to the people at the sale table. Got an idea for fund-raising? They are a good conduit to the fund-raising committee. How about committing yourself to yet a higher level of participation by joining the fund-raising committee itself? It is not an onerous task. There are about 5 meetings a year. The committee oversees all fund-raising done by the club. You can get a better idea of what is involved through the folk at the at-meeting plant sale. Contact Janet Butts or Annemarie Mobach (see contacts listing), if you would like to join. The fund-raising committee is in overall charge of the Boulevard Plant Sale.

BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS 2017 SPRING MEETING & AGM:

Why not spend Sat, Mar 25th with other NWHS members at the BC Council Meeting. The morning will be spent on the AGM, which some may think boring but if you approach it with an open mind, can be quite fascinating. After the excellent buffet lunch, we will be treated to two speakers. Julia Commons will be giving us an update on "Hives for Humanity". Bees do make a difference—not only as pollinators. Tasha Murray from the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver will give us the lowdown on "Aliens Among Us". The day also includes vendors, tea & coffee & muffins & cookies and, of course, the huge draw which NWHS runs. Because we man the draw table, the NWHS tables are first in line for the buffet. The club subsidizes the attendance of NWHS members. Instead of paying the \$35 early bird price, NWHS members pay only \$30—if you signup (& pay) by Feb 28. See Audrey (fireplace table) tonight or Ellen (at her home) after tonight. Cash or cheque payable to NWHS please.

Tonight's Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 14, 2017
Speaker: Alanna Claffey, City of New Westminster's senior tree arborist, on "New Westminster's Tree Bylaw"
Membership renewals: only \$15.
2017 NWHS budget vote

Mark Your Calendar

NWHS March Regular Meeting

Tues, Mar 14, 7:30pm
Speaker: Wilhelm Bischof on "Orchids"

VanDusen Seedy Saturday

Sat, Feb 25, 10am-3pm
VanDusen Floral Hall & Cedar Rm
Admission by donation

Ladner Seedy Saturday & Garden

Expo, Sat, Feb 18, 930am-4pm
Ladner United Church, 4960 – 48 Ave,
Ladner - Admission by donation
www.ladnercommunitygarden.blogspot.ca

Northwest Flower & Garden Show,

Seattle Feb 22-26
Washington State Convention Center,
Seattle www.gardenshow.com
Take the bus to the show & relax:
contact Bert Garbuio (604-299-6876)
to get on the Wed, Feb 22 bus. \$110
covers bus transit, admission and
dinner on the way home.

VanDusen Seedy Saturday,

Sat Feb 25, 10am-3pm
VanDusen Floral Hall & Cedar Rm
Admission by donation

Plant a Row, Grow a Row Spring Gardeners' Party

Wed, Mar 8, 6pm-9pm
St Thomas More Collegiate
7450 12th Ave, Burnaby
(See article)

LEPS Salmon Friendly Gardens

Seminar "Gardening in a Changing Climate" - Sat, Mar 11, 10am-1:30pm

Township of Langley Civic Facility,
20338 65Ave, Langley (See article)

BC Council of Garden Club's Spring Meeting & AGM

Sat Mar 25, 8:30am-4pm
Firefighters Banquet & Conference
Centre, 6515 Bonsor St, Burnaby
Registration required.

www.bcgardenclubs.com (see article)

NWHS Boulevard Plant Sale

Sat, May 13, Pot up your plants asap

New Westminster Horticultural Society February 2017

FLORISSA:

Yes, we have the spring 2017 flyer. See Audrey (fireplace table) to place an order. Sales tax is included within the prices. Payment can be made by cash or cheque payable to NWHS. The deadline to order is our March 14 general meeting. They will be ready for pick-up shortly after that date. Of course, we will gladly take orders for your friends. This is a fund-raiser for NWHS. We keep roughly half of the sale proceeds.

Check out www.florissa.com We constantly hear "You bought that from Florissa? I didn't know that flower was offered. Which one was it?" To enhance you making your selection, here is an enlargement of the descriptions of the offerings. All offerings should bloom this year. To get a jump on their growth, try starting them in pots.

- A. *Campfire Dance*: a mixture of Crocosmia (aka Montbretia): Lucifer (red), Emily Mckenzie (orange) and George Davidson (yellow). The corms are mixed unlabeled in the bag. When growing, Lucifer will be taller than Emily and George.
- B. *Blue Poppy*: Anemone de Caen 'Mr. Fokker' Best in a warm, dry spot. Good cut flower
- C. *Pink Peony*: Sarah Bernhardt. Huge double flowers on erect stems. Great cut flower.
- D. *True North Lilies*: No fragrance. Within the bag, white bulbs are separate from red bulbs, allowing you to create dramatic swooshes of red and white if you so desire.
- E. *Butterfly Love*: Asclepias tuberosa. Also known as Butterfly Weed (a cultivar of Milkweed). Loved by bees as well as butterflies. Long blooming if deadheaded.
- F. *Dahlia Blueberry Cheesecake*: Huge dinner-plate (8-10") blooms. One clump of each of these dahlia: Avignon (white with burgundy/red stripes); Vancouver (burgundy-violet with lighter centers & white tips); Kiev (white blushed with pink when flower matures). Clumps are not individually labeled.
- H. *Summer Sunrise Calla Lillies*: Zantedeschia. These are not hardy. Lift in winter.
- J. *Speckled Toad Lily*: Tricyrtis hirta. An ideal plant for the edge of a shady border. Flowers are 1" diameter.

SEED EXCHANGE:

When looking through your seed stash, have you come across some which you realize you will never grow? Well, reduce your guilt level by donating them to the club's seed exchange. Seed donations can be made at the fireplace table. When seeds are available for selecting, they will be in the foyer.

GOT A SPARE ROOM?

Elsie Ansdell is looking for a room to rent for the month of March when she plans to return to New Westminster to settle details regarding her house fire insurance. She is looking for simple accommodation (a bed to sleep in and access to bathroom facilities). No cooking or meals required. Do you have a furnished bedroom? Know of someone who does? If so, please call Elsie at 778-430-0730. She is currently residing in Victoria. We hope she will make our March meeting when in town.

PHOTO & CONTAINER CONTESTS:

NWHS is all about sharing. The photo and container contests are ways you can share magical fleeting moments in gardens with other members. Being veiled as competitions gives an added perk to the sharing. Pick up your 2017 contest handout tonight (foyer, fireplace table). When you read it over, you will see it is very similar to the 2016 version. The main difference is Colour in the Garden. For 2017, the colour is White which includes very pale colours and silver as well as pristine white. Remember, a garden is defined as a place cultivated by humans.

PLANT A ROW, GROW A ROW SPRING GARDENERS' PARTY:

No, that is not a typo! The date for 2017 is the *Wednesday before* our March meeting. Although the event runs from 6pm-9pm, you are well advised to arrive early—or else, expect the handouts to be well picked over. Admission is with a donation of non-perishable food for the Food Bank. Plant a Row, Grow a Row is a program that runs June to October: you donate your excess home grown produce (or purchased produce) and volunteers forward it to the needy in our community. The Gardeners' Party is the annual kick-off event—definitely not to be missed. There will be a multitude of tables set out with hand-outs. Speakers include Egan Davis, Conway Lum, Brian Minter. Of course, the June & Trudy Show from Lee Valley will be there. Claude leDoux is the MC. Loads of door prizes. Lots of fun. Mark your calendar!

DID YOU BRING YOUR OWN MUG?

As a thank you, when you bring your mug you get a free draw ticket when you purchase a ticket. Can't beat that deal!!! Thank you for being environmentally conscientious.

OUR MEETINGS ARE SCENT-FREE:

In consideration of the several people (not just Audrey) at our meetings who are scent sensitive, please be considerate by leaving fragrance at home and in your garden.

LEPS SEMINAR 'GARDENING IN A CHANGING CLIMATE':

Attending this seminar is always time well spent. The Langley Environmental Partners Society have done it again. They have lined up three knowledgeable speakers: Linda Gilkeson ("Resilient Gardens"), David Catzel ("Seed Breeding") and David Clements ("New Weeds in the Garden"). Light refreshments, informative displays, possibilities to win a prize, garden books and local seeds for sale (cash only). The event is free but RSVP is required. Go to www.eventbrite.ca/e/salmon-friendly-gardens-seminar-tickets-31135708743. Go to www.leps.bc.ca to learn more about the organization. Also, you can register via links on this site. The deadline to register is Feb 21.

ROAD SALT & PLANTS, A BAD COMBO:

There can be two effects from excessive salt on plants. Too much salt in the ground prevents plants from absorbing moisture via roots. This causes symptoms of drought. If salt spray has hit trees or shrubs, the coating of salt draws moisture out of leaves and dormant buds preventing photosynthesis or new bud growth in spring. To counteract the salt in the ground, apply loads of water to the area to wash the salt out. Then, for lawns, remove the dead grass, top dress and reseed. For trees & shrubs, evidence of salt attack may not show up until summer. Trim back the dead areas. In bad cases the plant may need to be removed.

A person looked at me and said "I can't believe you eat ice cream when it's cold out", I replied "Oh that's nothing, I drink water also when it rains" — Stanley Victor Paskavich

Contacts

Julia Goulden - President

604-526-1140 or

julia@newwesthortsociety.org

Ellen Berg - Treasurer, BC Council,

Membership Renewal- 604-525-7827

or ellen@newwesthortsociety.org

Janet Butts—Fundraising

604-435-3008 or

Janet@newwesthortsociety.org

Annemarie Mobach—Fundraising

604-524-5780 or

Annemarie@newwesthortsociety.org

Audrey Barnes - Florissa

604-526-8284 (Before 8pm) or

audrey@newwesthortsociety.org