

Newsletter



IT'S APRIL! IT MUST BE PLANT SALE MONTH!

Yes! The tradition continues: we celebrate re-acquainting ourselves with our gardens by evaluating our plants. It is the perfect time to move a plant while the weather is still cool (and it is watered by nature in its new location) or to dig up, pot and donate plants for our sale. Spring plant sales make so much sense: our sale timing is just right for you to purchase new plants too. Enjoy your gardens, enjoy participating in our sale.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT: *by Janet Butts*

Boulevard Plant Sale: We encourage members to participate in whatever way you can. If you don't have plants to donate, there are other ways you can participate. Sign-up for sale day duty, get the word out about the sale, buy plants! Check out the huge plant sale article for details. Thanks.

Monthly In-Club Plant Sale: How many times have you dug up a plant and "drat! I've missed the plant sale"? Not to worry, that is one reason why we have our monthly sales. Bring it to the in-club sale table. Also welcome at the table are any garden-related décor items, decorative pots or tools. If you have a large item, please bring a photo. If something you bring in doesn't sell, we ask you to take it home again. This month, you will see some *Fittonia* (also called nerve plants for their delicately veined leaves), compliments of Shelagh Penty. These trailing house plants thrive in warm humid conditions with bright, indirect light.

HERITAGE HOME TOUR CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: The New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society is looking for volunteers for its 39th Annual Heritage Homes Tour on Sunday, May 27, 2018. Volunteers assist at a home for either a morning (9:45-1:30) or afternoon (1:15-5:00) shift and get a free Home Tour Express pass to bypass the line at the other homes on tour. If you are interested, please contact Sherri Summers, Volunteer Coordinator at sherrijsummers@gmail.com or 778-789-3759.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: *by Lorna Cloutier*

The days are getting longer now and the weather warmer—even with the rain! Hopefully you are getting out in your yards, balconies or community garden plots to see what is emerging. If you have been a member of NWHS for more than a year, there is a very good chance that some of your plants have come from either our Annual Boulevard Plant Sale or our monthly In-House Plant Sale. Take a bit of time and look around to see if any plants need dividing. Are they getting too large for their spots or do you want to change what is there? Division is needed for the on-going health of many perennials. Are seedlings emerging where you don't want them? Consider potting up and donating the plants to our upcoming Boulevard Plant Sale. It is the club's prime fund-raiser and part of our public face. Our sale is renowned for great plants and great deals.

NEXT MONTH'S PRESENTATION: Douglas Justice will be speaking on "The Role of Botanical Gardens in Plant Conservation". The talk will cover some of the history as well as modern approaches to plant conservation in gardens, focusing on the UBC Botanical Garden's past and present activities.

Douglas Justice is Associate Director of Horticulture and Collections at the UBC Botanical Garden, with responsibility for day-to-day operations of the garden and the living collections. He is an instructor in the Garden's Horticulture Training Program and also teaches about woody plants in UBC's Landscape Architecture program. Douglas trained in nursery work and is a life long gardener. He has authored the mobile app "Vancouver Trees" and is now working to complete a volume on Vancouver's shrubs. His guide "Ornamental Cherries in Vancouver" is a must have for Cherry Blossom Festival fans. In it, he identifies 35 of the key flowering ornamental cherries in Vancouver.

Tonight's Meeting

Tuesday, April 10, 2018
Speaker: Dr. Carole Christopher on "Eating Defensively by Growing Your Own Food"
Deadline for membership renewal
Spring Bring to Share

Mark Your Calendar

Other Garden Club Plant Sales: This is definitely plant sale month. Check the bulletin board for sale notices or the BC Council of Garden Clubs website (Events page) for a listing. www.gardenclubs.com

Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival: Ongoing until April 29. Put on by the Vancouver Parks & Rec, this family-friendly festival involves a huge number of events (many free) at various locations throughout the city. A celebration of spring. www.vcbf.ca

90th Annual Bradner Flower Show: Fri-Sun, Apr 13-15, 10am-5pm
Bradner Community Hall
5303 Bradner Rd, Abbotsford
Admission \$2. 100's of daffodil varieties on display, food, tea room, plant sale, crafts, music, wineries, craft beer tastings, gardening seminars & special speakers. 604-856-0452
Info: bradnerflowershow@gmail.com

NWHS Boulevard Plant Sale: Sat, May 5, 10am-3pm
Blvd in front of 720 5th St, New West
(see article on participating)

NWHS Regular May Meeting
Tues, May 8, 7:30pm
Speaker: Douglas Justice on "The Role of Botanical Gardens in Plant Conservation"

Dart's Hill Garden Guided Tour: Either Sat, May 12 or Sat, June 2, 10:30-12:30
170th St & 16th Ave, South Surrey
Admission \$5, payable to NWHS in advance (see article)

NWHS Annual Garden Tour & Pot Luck Picnic: Sat, July 14. Tour in afternoon; picnic in evening. Speak with Audrey about inviting us to your garden.

New Westminster Horticultural Society April 2018

YOUR GUIDE TO THE NWHS BLVD PLANT SALE:

aka "How you can participate to make our sale a success"

When: Sat, May 5; 10am-3pm

Where: Blvd in front of 720 5th St, New Westminster

Recently there has been much discussion about how to make the sale run smoother. We're not talking about bigger, just better. Doing your part, by following the guidelines outlined here, will make the sale more pleasant for everyone.

PLANT SALE CONTACT LIST:

Sharon Seki: Overall sale lead, pricing, day of sale duty roster
sharon@newwesthortsociety.org
or 604-525-1611

Terri Clark-Kveton: Potting soil
terri@newwesthortsociety.org
or 604-526-1954

1118 Eighth Ave, NW

Audrey Barnes: Pots, blank labels, Sharpie pens, plant tag info, plant ID, your plant list

audrey@newwesthortsociety.org
or 604-526-8284

117 Seventh Ave, NW

POTTING YOUR PLANTS:

Pot up your offerings as soon as you can to promote root growth, thus creating healthy plants.

Need pots? Contact Audrey. Her carport is the depot for pot drop-off (until Sale Day) and pick-up. We are in dire need of pots. Audrey's address is 117 Seventh Ave, NW. The carport is in the lane. There is a deck on top. Drop off pots any time. Talk with Audrey before taking pots.

Need soil? Contact Terri. She has soil for potting in 4" or smaller pots. Her address is 1118 Eighth Ave, NW

LABELING YOUR PLANTS:

Supply as much info as you can fit on one side of the label. Don't worry if some of the printing will be below the dirt level. Use a waterproof Sharpie pen.

Include data that would sell your plant:

- Botanical name (if known)
- Common name
- Height & spread
- Desired environment (eg sun; sun/pt shade; shade)
- Special features such as flower colour and fragrance--anything that makes the plant a "must have".

Need labels? Audrey has the stash

Need to borrow a pen? Audrey has a limited number of Sharpies to lend out.

Need plant info? Check with Audrey.

There's a good chance that your plant is in the Plant Sale Tag Info Log.

Need to ID a plant? Email a photo to Audrey. She loves the challenge of identifying a plant.

PRICING YOUR PLANTS:

We would like all plants to be priced before delivery to the sale site. Please refer to Pricing Guidelines on the last page of the newsletter. The grid indicates base prices which can be either raised or lowered depending on the quality and rareness of your plant. When writing the price on the tag, write it on the reverse of the of the plant info side. Orient your writing so that when the tag is vertical in the pot, the price is read horizontally. Again, waterproof Sharpies are ideal (a great use for dull pens). Make sure the tag is dry before adding the price. Why not write the label and price the plant in one go?

Need help with pricing? Contact Sharon as soon as possible once you have your plants potted-up. She will arrange a time that a team will show up to assist you. Please do not wait until the last minute as a time crunch is expected.

DELIVERY OF PLANTS:

Ideally the plants (labeled & priced) should be delivered to the sale site on Friday May 4th between 5:30 and 7:30pm. This will permit preliminary sorting of these plants. Less panic later. If you're unable to do that, then you can deliver your plants on the sale day between 8:00 to 9:30am. The earlier the better—but not before 8:00am Saturday due to noise concerns. If your seedlings have not been hardened off, do not deliver them to the sale site Friday night. Instead, drop them off at Audrey's to be held over in her greenhouse until sale day. She will deliver them on sale day.

YOUR PLANT DONATION LIST:

We would like to know what to expect. When you get your plants potted, tell Audrey what you are donating (email is best but via phone works well too). In the ideal world, she would like to know your plant names (so we can get a photo of the plants) and the number & size of pots (so we can visualize the space needed at the sale). We know from experience how a picture can sell a plant. If you have a photo of the plant in its prime, please email it to Audrey.

Vegetables: If you have grown tomatoes or other veggies from seed, we need to know the names of the varieties. Please include a description eg for tomatoes:

the name of the tomato, determinate or indeterminate, color & size of fruit, days to maturity—plus anything else, such as "heritage", that helps us to sell your plants. Young tomato plants all look the same. "Tomatoes" are used an example here. We would like data on all vegetables, herbs & fruits if possible. Audrey is collecting the data on behalf of Silina Nakatsu who will be making up a spreadsheet for easy reference when customers ask for details.

DAY OF SALE VOLUNTEERING:

For many people, this is the "fun, must not miss" part of the sale (besides buying!). The Day of Sale Volunteer Sign-Up sheet is near the refreshment table tonight. Please tell us when you would like to help. Adding your expertise (eg "knowledgeable about plants", "can add like a wizard") will help the organizers assign duties.

There will be three shifts: Obviously duties vary throughout the day.

- 7:30 to 10am: Setting up the canopies & tables; sorting plants and organizing plants on the tables.
- 10am to 12:30pm: Our busy time. Selling, tallying, replenishing tables.
- 12:30 to 3:30pm: Slower sales. Replenishing & consolidating tables, take down.

You will be expected to arrive at the sale site at least a few minutes before your shift. Check in with Sharon or Lorna upon your arrival. If you are on the volunteer roster for helping on sale day, you get to have first dibs on buying plants once everything is set up and before the sale is open to the public. This will be strictly monitored.

Want to sign-up later after the meeting? Contact Sharon who will have the sheet.

REALTOR NOTE PADS:

If you are one of those people with an excessive stash of realtor note-pads, we would love for you to share some with us. We use them for tallying the sales—both at the Blvd Plant Sale and later, in October, at our Silent Auction. They can be dropped off at Audrey's or delivered directly to the sale site.

BOXES:

Yes, of course, we will need boxes. Please bring any cardboard trays to the sale site on Saturday. Do not deliver them Friday evening as they would probably get destroyed by moisture.

New Westminster Horticultural Society April 2018

PUBLICITY:

Grab a stash of the small yellow posters to give to your friends or your co-workers. We call them "fridge posters"—perfect size for fridge doors. If you know of a public (or even private) bulletin board, grab one of the larger posters. Let's get the word out.

THANK YOU:

To the Fundraising Committee and all club members who have participated in putting on the sale, NWHS thanks you. A special thanks to Monica & John Mowat and their neighbours who, once again, have let us use their driveways and boulevard as the sale site.

ALRIGHT! LET'S SELL THOSE PLANTS!

GETTING THE DIRT ON SOIL:

by Anna Camporese

Our June speaker will be Jim Parkes, owner of Premium Soils Ltd. He wants to fine-tune his presentation to answer questions that our members have about soil. Please let me know if you have questions about soil that Jim can address in his talk. So far, I've suggested the following:

- What is soil? Its structure, etc. Sort of an overview for new gardeners and a refresher for the experienced ones in our group
- Importance of different types of soil depending on the situation
- How to evaluate soil when buying from a supplier in bulk and also in bagged soil at the garden centre.
- Evaluating the soil already in your garden
- What amendments to make to the soil already in your garden. For a lot of the members this is what they really want to know. And more than just add compost, as most of us already do this
- The pros and cons of different manures
- What are your thoughts on green fertilizers to plant in the garden in the fall such as rye and red clover.

Talk with Anna at the meeting or contact her at anna@newwesthortsociety.org.

FLORISSA FUND-RAISER:

Thank you to all who purchased bulbs, corms, tubers and bare-rooted plants through our Florissa Spring Program. With your keenness to make your gardens beautiful and your plates tasty, we have added \$290.35 to the club coffers. Excellent! Now, let's get planting. It is too early for planting Dahlia into the cold ground (wait until the lilac bloom) but get them started by

planting in pots and keeping them in a warm spot. Transplant them when the stalks are a pencil thick.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Mar 2018

Total Revenue: \$636.05

Total Expenses: \$1064.20

See bulletin board for report.

DART'S HILL GARDEN PARK GUIDED TOUR:

Never been to Dart's Hill? Well, now is the time rectify that deficiency in your garden experiences. The garden website, www.dartshill.ca, describes it as "a wondrous collection of mature trees, shrubs and perennials, set out in over 50 beds among winding pathways and open lawns". For many people, Dart's Hill brings to mind "rhodos and magnolias" but it was planted for all-season interest. 7.5 acres filled with rare and precious plants! The paths are gravel with many inclines (some steep!). Walking shoes are a must.

We have two potential dates for our tour: Sat, May 12 or Sat, June 2. 10:30 to 12:30 for either date. We will have a knowledgeable guide (or more, if our group is large). We will decide tonight which date we will pick as we must get our reservation in by April 17. The sign-up sheet is at Audrey's fireplace table. If either date works, sign-up for both. If only one day works for you, obviously you only sign-up for it. The most popular date will be our tour date.

The cost per person is \$5, payable as soon as possible. Tonight would be ideal. For those who think the trails may be physically challenging, golf carts (which hold 3 people + the supplied driver) will be an additional \$25. The golf cart must be reserved in advance, at the time of booking. Our group is open to NWHS members, spouses and other friends. The cost is \$5 for everyone. There is no subsidy for club members. So...if you are interested, sign-up tonight, pay your \$5/person and get prepared to be amazed by the gardens. If you do not pay tonight, payment must be made by the May meeting. Contact Lorna before April 17 if you want to add your name to the list after tonight. The tour will happen rain or shine.

Dart's Hill is at 170th St and 16th Ave in South Surrey. The entrance is off 170th St. Not far from White Rock. Also, not far from West Coast Gardens on 172nd St. This excellent nursery is renowned as "the place to buy coleus". There is a small café at the nursery.

GARDEN BROOMS:

The sale of these great brooms (a fundraiser for Kwantlen Park School's dry grad) continues until April 30. Order your broom through Audrey. Only \$20. www.TheOriginalGardenBroom.com.

CONTACTS:

Lorna Cloutier: President
604-524-1942 or
lorna@newwesthortsociety.org

Diane Perry: Vice-President, speakers, refreshments
diane@newwesthortsociety.org

Ellen Berg: Treasurer
604-525-7827 or
ellen@newwesthortsociety.org

Anna Camporese: Speakers, soil questions for June speaker
anna@newwesthortsociety.org

Lea McDonald: Contests
604-942-9416

Trudy Findlay: Outings, workshops
604-522-2665 or
trudy@newwesthortsociety.org

Terri Clark-Kveton: Plant sale soil
604-525-1954 or
terri@newwesthortsociety.org

Terry Koziel: Website liaison
778-789-3441 or
terry@newwesthortsociety.org

Audrey Barnes: Garden Brooms; Tour & Picnic; Plant Sale: pots, labels, sharpie pens, plant ID, your plant lists
604-526-8284 (before 8pm) or
audrey@newwesthortsociety.org

Janet Butts: Fundraising, Blvd Plant Sale, 604-435-3008 or
janet@newwesthortsociety.org

Annemarie Mobach: Fundraising
604-524-5780 or
annemarie@newwesthortsociety.org

Joan Stevenson: Wish-List
604-522-8249 or
joan@newwesthortsociety.org

Richard Harrison: Seed Exchange
604-544-2468 or
richard@newwesthortsociety.org

Merril Hall: Sketch Club
604-790-1321 or
merril@newwesthortsociety.org

Sharon Seki: Overall plant sale lead; plant pricing; sale day roster
604-525-1611 or
sharon@newwesthortsociety.org

2018 NWS BOULEVARD PLANT SALE PRICING GUIDELINES

We aim to price our plants at 1/2 to 2/3 of regular retail price of an equivalent healthy plant. The prices listed are for an average filled pot.

* If your pot is less full or smaller plants drop by \$1-\$2 on the price below.

* If fuller or larger plant than average add \$1-\$2 to the price.

* If you have a named variety or a rarer plant then add \$2-\$3 to the price.

If you are stuck or have something large or unusual then call the Pricing Team. Contact is **Sharon at 604-525-1611**.

	1 gal pot or 6" pot	4" pot	2" pot	Flat 4-6 small plants
Perennials				
Ground covers including spreading sedums and Hen & Chicks (Sempervivum)	\$4.00	\$2.00		
Hosta, Hellebores	\$5.00	\$3.00		
Sedums (tall variety - e.g.- Autumn Joy)	\$5.00	\$2.00		
Solomon's Seal (exception) - Priced at \$2 for first 2 stems and then add \$0.50 for each additional stem.				
Other Perennials such Daylily, Iris, Hardy Geraniums, Anemones, Pulmonaria, Grasses	\$3.00	\$2.00		
Annuals		\$2.00	\$1.00	\$2.00
Edibles				
Raspberries	\$4.00	\$2.50		
Rhubarb	\$4.00	\$2.50		
Tomatoes - 4-6" tall		\$2.50		
Tomatoes - 2-3" tall			\$1.50	
Tomatoes - smaller			\$1.00	
Tomatoes - (Tumbler)		\$3.00		
Tomatoes (Heirloom)		\$3.00	\$2.00	
Veggies other than tomatoes		\$2.00	\$1.00	\$2.00
Herbs		\$3.00	\$2.00	

For those growing tomatoes / other veggies could you please provide us a list of tomatoes / veggies by name / type / determinate / indeterminate / & other interesting characteristics i.e, colour, size, or type of fruit, heirloom or not. **Send to: audrey@newwesthortsociety.org** We wish to compile a list for sale day to better help our customers with their selections as many come specifically looking for tomatoes/veggies.