

Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

February 2018

2018 KICK-OFF:

There is nothing jumping into the 2018 NWHS year than an event prior to our first meeting! Yesterday we told the public about the club by participating in the New Westminster Family Day celebrations. We coordinated with four friends at the New West Parks Greenhouse who were also involved. One of our new pop-up canopies was situated just outside the greenhouse, a perfect location to welcome people to the greenhouse and to highlight how NWHS is a vibrant part of the gardening scene in the city. A thankyou goes out to all who helped prepare the display and who personally represented the club. Well done!



MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Your 2018 NWHS membership is now due. At \$15/year it is the best deal in town. Fantastic! To renew yours and update any contact information, see Ellen Berg. Cash or cheque payable to NWHS delightfully received.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

by Lorna Cloutier

Welcome to a new year of gardening. I'm looking forward to the next few years as your president. If you have any suggestions of workshops or outings you would like us to do, topics or speakers you would like to hear, or ways we could improve the club just drop myself or one of the executive an email or put it in the suggestion box on the head table. The executive is here to make your club you want to enjoy. The club is only as strong as its members!

OUR SPEAKERS:

February: Marilyn Holt: We've had Marilyn a few times and invited her back because, frankly, she is a fantastic presenter. She knows her stuff and how to get it across. She has horticultural training in many fields. Presently she is the Garden Centre Manager at Buckerfield's Abbotsford and has developed it far beyond a local feed store. It is now a "must-visit" garden centre.

March: Gary Lewis: In the lower mainland, if you think Hellebores, the name Gary Lewis pops to mind. He is well-known on the gardening talk circuit. The annual Hellebore Hurrah at his garden centre, Phoenix Perennials & Specialty Plants, in Richmond is not to be missed. If you are looking for a specific or unusual plant, check out this nursery. For some serious eye-candy, sign up for the nursery's e-newsletter at www.phoenixperennials.com.

Tonight's Meeting

Tues, Feb 13, 2018

Speaker: Marilyn Holt on "Germinating Seeds"

Membership renewals: only \$15
2018 NWHS budget vote

Mark Your Calendar

Hellebore Hurrah

Fri, Feb 23 to Sun, Feb 25, 10am-5pm
Phoenix Perennials, 3380 No 6 Rd, Richmond, www.phoenixperennials.com

VanDusen Seedy Saturday

Sat, Feb 24, 10am-4pm
VanDusen Floral Hall

Admission by donation
www.vandusengarden.org/events/seedy-saturday/

Ladner Seedy Saturday & Garden

Expo - Sat, Mar 3, 10am-3pm

Ladner United Church
4960-48Ave, Ladner

Admission by donation
www.ladnercommunitygarden.blogspot.ca

LEPS Salmon Friendly Gardens

Seminar - Sat, Mar 3, 10am-1pm

Township of Langley Civic Facility
20338 - 65 Ave, Langley

Free but registration required
See article

BC Council of Garden Clubs' Spring Meeting & AGM

Sat, Mar 10, 8:30am-4pm

Firefighters Banquet & Conference Centre

6515 Bonsor St, Burnaby
Registration required, See article

NWHS March General Meeting

Tues, Mar 13, 7:30pm

Speaker: Gary Lewis, from Phoenix Perennials, on "Hellebores"

Plant a Row, Grow a Row Spring Gardeners' Party

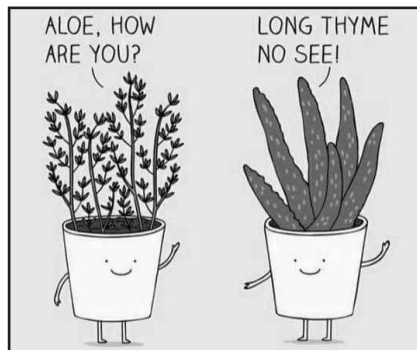
Wed, Mar 28

Exciting details next month

NWHS Blvd Plant Sale

Sat, May 5, 10am-3pm

Blvd in front of 720 Fifth St, NW



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FLORISSA:

The spring 2018 flyer is here ! Lots of great ideas to make your garden beautiful and tasty. Take one home, drool, show it to your friends & neighbours. If your friends want to order too, that would be great. Place your order by Wed, April 4 (5pm) through Audrey. Payment in cash or cheque (payable to NWHS) are both acceptable. The prices include all taxes. With this NWHS fundraiser the club retains 50% of the total order. To facilitate your selection, here is additional details for some of the offerings:

A. Dahlia Cactus Mix: mix of unnamed dahlia

B. Campfire Dance: A mixture of *Crocsmia* (aka *Montbretia*): Lucifer (red), Emily McKenzie (orange) and George Davidson (yellow). The corms are mixed in the bag. When growing, Lucifer will be taller than Emily and George.

C. Pick Me! Purple Cut Flowers:

The calla is Picasso. It is not hardy. *Brodiaea* 'Queen Fabiola' grows about 15-20" high and produces umbels of starry violet blue flowers all summer. It is zone 7-10. The decorative dahlia, 'Thomas Edison', produces purple flowers up to 8" dia on 36-40" plants. The colours of the gladiolus 'Nori' are exactly as shown in the flyer. It grows 40" high.

D. Bee Haven: Also known as 'Blazing Star'. The two colors of *Iatris* are mixed in the bag.

F. Butterfly Love: *Acelepias tuberosa*. Also known as Butterfly Weed (a cultivar of Milkweed). Loved by bees as well as butterflies. Slow to start but the wait is worth it. Long blooming if deadheaded. The 2017 Perennial of the Year.

G. Peacock Flower: *Acidanthera* are a type of gladiolus. Lift in winter.

H. Speckled Toad Lily: *Tricyrtis hirta*. An ideal plant for the edge of a shady border. Flowers are 1" diameter.

I. Hiawatha Tiger Lily: Larger than a Turks Cap lily, with petals not as reflex. Lightly fragrant. Loved by humming-birds.

J. Blue Poppy: *Anemone de Caen* 'Mr. Fokker'. Best in a warm, dry spot. Good cut flower. Soak corms 24 hours before planting.

N. Mixed Onion Sets: Includes red, white, yellow & Spanish.

LIFE MEMBERS:

Annually, when we create the new issue of membership cards, we review the roster to see who has attained the coveted "life membership" status. These are people with 25 years continuous paid membership in the club. Some are still very involved in club activities. For others, that is far in the past. Thank you, all life members, for sticking with NWHS. We're glad you thought our club worthy. We honor life members by forfeiting their annual membership dues. When reviewing the following list, note that two members joined prior to 1973 (when records began)—which, for some of our younger members, is before their time on earth.

Pre 1973: Gordon & Verna
Mackintosh
1979: Elsie Ansdell
1980: Norma McFadden
1981: Bev Yates
1984: Jane DeMarchi
1988: Florence Ustare
1990: Nina Osanic
1991: Ellen Berg
1992: Patti Kemp
1993: Steve & Audrey Barnes
1993: Dorothy Peglar
1993: Shelagh Penty

PURPLE IS THE COLOUR:

We didn't realize last fall, when we selected Purple as the colour for our 2018 Photo Contest, how much purple is being touted this year. Fashionistas are promoting it for clothing, horticulturalists voted for it to be the "in colour" for plants. Gosh, even the 2018 Perennial of the Year, *Allium Millenium*, has purple flowers. Boy, are we in sync!

The 2018 Photo Categories are:

Colour in the garden: Purple: including images from pale mauve to deep royal purple. Besides "pure purple", hues with tints of red & blue are also included. Can be any garden.

Visitors in the garden: Must be your own garden

View of a NWHS Garden: Over-all or partial view of any NWHS member's garden

Macro Image: Must be a macro photograph. Can be any subject matter in any garden.

BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

SPRING MEETING & AGM:

Saturday, March 10, 8:30am-4pm; Firefighters Banquet & Conference Centre, Metrotown. Don't let those initials "AGM" deter you from signing up to this excellent event. You will be guaranteed a good time. Smooze with fellow NWHS members—and, if you so desire, with members from other clubs. Two excellent speakers will present. Daniel Mosquin with an extensive resume as a photographer, educator and botanical consultant will present "Native plants". Nancy Moore, landscape designer, gardening enthusiast and educator will speak on "Year-round interest in the garden with tips for making garden maintenance easier". Refreshments throughout the day and a delicious buffet lunch keeps your energy up. The draw is a fitting end to the meeting—fantastic prizes! Because NWHS runs the draw, our table is drawn first to line-up for lunch. This spring, BC Council raised the price to \$40 from \$35 if pre-registered (add another \$5 if paying at the door). NWHS has decided to keep the price for members at \$30 to attend. We raised the club subsidy from \$5 to \$10 per person. To take advantage of this deal, you must register through the club. Do so tonight, through Audrey, at the fireplace table. Cash or cheque payable to NWHS. After tonight, you can register through Ellen Berg at her home—deadline Friday, Feb 16 (5pm). See you there.

THE NWHS CONSTITUTION:

It's the members that are the heart of a club but it is the constitution that says how the club is run. If you have ever wondered about what is actually in the document, there is one on the bulletin board. If you want a personal copy (good bedtime reading—guaranteed to put you to sleep!), contact Lorna. She will gladly send it to you via email, or if you are email-less, print off a hard copy for you.

NATURES GUIDELINES:

Prune your roses when forsythia blooms.

Plant your dahlia when lilac blooms.

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START THINKING PLANT SALE: A FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE: by Janet Butts

It's February so, of course, the Fund-raising Committee is starting to talk up the Boulevard Plant Sale. You may think "but it's almost three months away", and of course you would be quite right. But time zooms!

All we really want to say about it right now is "Start thinking about it!". The weather has been mild all winter and you'll have noticed sprouts sprouting and buds budding. So, have a look at, or at least think about looking at, your garden and what plants should be divided, which have self sowed and how you're going to give the m to your beloved Garden Club for our main fund-raiser of the year.

I've begun winter sowing (It's not too late!!) hardy plants that I'm not ready to actually put in the ground. Besides a lot of hardy annuals, I've sown onions, lettuce, spinach and numerous other green things (I'd have to open up the containers and look at my labels to be reminded). For winter sowing grow your seeds outside in protected containers. I'm using milk jugs and roast chicken containers. Then, when the plants are a decent size, they can be either transplanted into the ground in a permanent spot or into individual pots if the ground still isn't ready or if they are going to the plant sale!

We'd really like to emphasize edibles this year. I know I said the same thing last year but, while we did get lots of tomatoes (a big thanks to those of you who provided them), we did not get many other vegetables. Some edibles are not the easiest things to grow from seed unless you have a greenhouse or a space for grow lights, but it is not so with many greens or herbs or cukes or squash. So please consider growing these. I'm going to work on oregano and thyme and other perennial herbs.

You may be interested to hear that the club will reimburse you for the seedling or potting soil you used for club purposes. If you want black plastic pots, just ask anyone on the committee and we'll see what we can find. I, personally, have quite a stash myself and will likely have more by April. If you have an excess please let us know. As the committee also runs the In-Club Plant Sale, that is a good place to contact them.

(NWHS is eternally grateful to the Fund-Raising Committee which oversees all money-making endeavours of the club. It is co-chaired by Janet Butts and Annemarie Mobach. Other members are Terri Clark-Kveton, Jean Johnson, Sharon Seki and Joan Stevenson. The doors are always open for new members.)

BUCKERFIELD'S ABBOTSFORD GARDEN CLUB:

Like discounts? We have the deal for you! You'll have to go to Abbotsford to take advantage of it, but it will be worth it. (While in Abbotsford, fill up on "cheap" gas.) The store's garden club offers 20% off all nursery plant/tree/shrub purchases at any time...and 10% off any garden related items like fertilizer, hoses, landscape fabric, pruners, etc. Get on the list to hear about upcoming sales, seminars and workshops. Most seminars and workshops are free. There is no cost to join. But you must sign-up! If you are interested, see Audrey. She will note your name and valid email address and forward them to Marilyn Holt. Marilyn will mail Audrey your Buckerfield's Abbotsford Garden Club Membership Card to forward onto you. This card must be presented to receive the club discount. The store is at 31852 Marshall Pl, very close to the Trans-Canada Hwy via the Clearbrook Rd exit. So, sign up with Audrey tonight or at a later date.

KNOWLEDGE GLEANED AT THE SEATTLE GARDEN SHOW:

"If you are not killing plants regularly, you are not gardening hard enough"
Words of wisdom from Granny Staddon.

LEPS SALMON FRIENDLY GARDENS SEMINAR:

Sat, Mar 3, 10am-1pm, Langley
Don't make the mistake of thinking that just because this event is free, it is not worth attending. Make it a priority to fit it you're your schedule. You will not be disappointed. This year, there will be two presentations: Dr. Elizabeth Elle on "The Buzz on Bees: Why they are declining, and what we can plant for them" and Andrea Bellamy on "Incredible Edibles in Containers: Small-Space Vegetable Gardening 101". Light refreshments will be provided. Please bring your own water bottle. Pre-registration is required. To register and learn more about the seminar, go to www.eventbrite.ca and enter 'Salmon Friendly Gardens Seminar'. To learn more about Langley Environmental Partners Society, go to www.leps.bc.ca.

CONTACTS:

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Trudy Findlay: Outings, workshops
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Audrey Barnes: Florissa, Contests, Buckerfield's Garden Club
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Janet Butts: Fundraising, Blvd Plant Sale, 604-435-3008 or
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Richard Harrison: Seed Exchange
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Merril Hall: Sketch Club
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