

Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

May 2018

SUCCESS!!

The weather gods were willing! The members were keen! The plants were fantastic! Loads of customers! It all added up to a great sale.

This weekend was the frantic climax to months of hard work for the fund-raising committee (under the guidance of Janet and Sharon) and the many members who grew from seed and potted plants from their gardens. It was a pleasure to receive plants labeled and priced. It was gratifying that to see the members, who took part in Terri's seed planting tutorials, plant seeds for the sale. It is tricky getting the timing just right. Plants germinate and grow at such varied rates. Your efforts are applauded.

The morning started with a swarm of members working like army ants (but much nicer) trying to fit all the plants on the tables in an organized manner. Many grumbles: "We need more space!" But then the customers arrived and soon there was plenty of space. For the last hour, due to the vastly diminished crowds, prices were reduced to half price. In the end, only 14 flats of plants remained. Amazing.

A thank-you is extended to all members who helped with the sale. Also, to Frank (Sharon's husband) and Ken (Ellen's son) who did a huge amount of work. Much appreciated. Special thanks to John & Monica and their neighbours who not only permitted us to use their driveways as our sale site but loaned us equipment. Great support!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our hobby is one that has our gardens bringing us pleasure via colour and scents for most of the year.

The narcissi, tulips and hyacinths are just finishing and now rhododendrons, Solomon Seal and Lily of the Valley are starting to show us their colours and provide us with their scents. Did you know that Lily of the Valley is the traditional birthday flower for the month of May? How appropriate since it is just emerging. And did you also know that all parts of it are highly poisonous?! It is a fragrant flower used in religious ceremonies, wedding bouquets, world and folkloric celebrations, perfumes and, of course, gardens. It most often symbolizes chastity, purity, happiness, luck and humility. It is also said to protect gardens from evil spirits and its strong fragrance lures the nightingale to find its mate. In the language of flowers, floriography, Lily of the Valley signifies the "return of happiness" which is what May and spring means to us after a long cold or rainy winter.

NEXT MONTH'S PRESENTATION:

Jim Parkes is the president and owner of Premium Soils. Like our members who get excited about the quality of our plants, Jim gets excited about soil. Located in Surrey, Eco-Soil Premium Soils been manufacturing quality soil and compost for the last 15 years. Jim believes it's important for soil to be organic because it's the most important factor in food production. "To put it simply, the quality of the soil you use will directly affect the quality of the produce". Come find out what is important for your soil's structure.

HERITAGE HOME TOUR CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:

You still have time to get on the volunteer list. There are openings for the afternoon shift, 1:15 to 5pm. Use your complementary ticket (with Express Pass) to view the homes in the morning and help in the afternoon. Win-win! Contact Sherri Summers, 778-789-3759; sherrijs Summers@gmail.com. A word of advice: do it soon before all the spots are taken.

Tonight's Meeting

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Speaker: Doug Justice on "The Role of Botanical Gardens in Plant Conservation"

Mark Your Calendar

Edible Oasis Mother's Plant Sale & Garden Tour

Sat & Sun, May 12-13, 9am-3pm
400 block Garret St, Sapperton (near Royal Columbian)
Info: michael@edibleoasis.ca

New Westminster Annual Heritage Homes Tour

Sun, May 27, 10am-5pm
Tickets \$35
Info: www.newwestheritage.org
(see article on volunteering)

Dart's Hill Garden Guided Tour:

Sat, June 2, 10:30-12:30
170th St & 16th Ave, South Surrey
(see article)

Desert Plant Society of Vancouver Show & Sale - Sat, June 9, 10am-5pm

Sun, June 10, 10am-4pm
Floral Hall, VanDusen Garden
Admission by donation

NWHS Regular June Meeting:

Tues, June 12, 7:30
Speaker: Jim Parkes on "Soils & Compost"

Quadra Island Quilt & Garden Tour

Sat & Sun, June 23-24, 10am-4pm
Tickets \$15
www.facebook.com/
QuadraIslandQuiltandGardenTour/
(see article)

NWHS Regular July Meeting:

Tues, July 10, 7:30
Speaker: Daniel Mosquin on "Tips & Tricks of Photography"
NWHS In-Club Show

NWHS Annual Garden Tour & Picnic

Sat, July 14. Afternoon tour & early evening picnic. (See article)

TREASURER'S REPORT - April 2016

Total Revenue: \$1296.50
Total Expenses: \$344.35
See bulletin board detailed report.

New Westminster Horticultural Society May 2018

DART'S HILL GARDEN PARK GUIDED

TOUR: Wow! Fantastic response last month for sign-up. 26 people! Our tour date of choice is Sat, June 2. Sorry, but a mistake was made in last month's article. The \$5/person we collected was for the hiring of the tour guides. Admission by donation is on top of that. Oops! With such a horde signed up, we hope that people will car pool. The list of attendees will be at the fireplace table tonight. Check to see with whom you would like to travel. We hope that people will extend this social outing by socializing to and from the garden.

QUADRA ISLAND QUILT & GARDEN

TOUR: Sat & Sun, June 23 & 24. Tickets are only \$15. This unique event is put on by the Quadra Island Quilters Guild in coordination with the island's garden club. There are 12 gardens on the tour including 2 working farms with livestock, 1 golf course with deer resistant plants. The majority of the gardens will be decorated with quilts. It is a bit of an excursion to get to Quadra Island. Ferry to Nanaimo, a 2 hour drive to Campbell River and then a 10 minute ferry trip to Quadra Island. You will need to take a car as the gardens are quite dispersed. Pauline Baldoumis (604-657-2519) has arranged to go with some friends and will gladly share what she knows about the tour including what accommodations are available on the island.

CARAN D'ACHE PENS:

Audrey's neighbour, Patrick Clark has given us another box of the colourful Infinite 888 pens. They will be for sale at the fireplace table for a mere \$5 (a steal!). If you bought one last year, you know how smoothly they write.

CLUB BOOKMARKS:

Have you seen our bookmarks? Our current one is orange. It invites people to join the club and lists upcoming meetings. Pick some up to hand out to acquaintances who could possibly be interested in what our club offers. In July, we will be issuing a new bookmark of a different colour.

LAWN SPRINKLERING REGULATIONS:

Yep, they're back! Lawns can be watered only from 4am to 9am. Even Addresses: Wed, Sat
Odd Addresses: Thurs, Sun

Watering trees, shrubs and flowers with a sprinkler is allowed any day but only between 4am & 9am.
www.metrovancouver.org

JULY SHOW SCHEDULE:

Hot off the press! Pick up your guide for showing what you are growing or your skills at creating at our annual in-club showbench in July.

The Flowers and Vegetable, Fruits & Herbs categories are the same as last year. See if any of the classes match with something you are growing (or planning to grow). Monitor you plants. Come July, show us what you grew. Classes are arranged with those for specific plants first and then become more general with the increasingly inclusive "not listed above" groupings. Enter your exhibits in the most specific appropriate class. If there is a specific class for your exhibit and you enter it in one of the general classes, your entry will be marked "nas" (not as scheduled). Because this is a judged show, there must be rules upon which judging is based. Each exhibit must comply with the rules for its class. Read the rules so you are not disappointed. For example, there is no class for mixed bouquets. Read the schedule. Look at your garden. Watch your plants mature.

Not growing anything? Check out the Floral Art categories for an opportunity to participate. For these, you can purchase the plant material. Have fun.

NWHS ANNUAL MEMBERS' GARDEN TOUR & POT-LUCK PICNIC:

Mark your calendar for Sat, July 14. This is the day of our "summer social". In the afternoon we enjoy a garden tour. In the evening, we enjoy the comradery of other members for a pot-luck picnic. These are two separate events. Partake in either or both. Both events are rain or shine.

The Tour: Usually we visit 5 to 7 gardens. The number is dependent upon travel time between them. The gardens are visited according to a set itinerary so that garden hosts can view the other gardens on the tour. The standard visiting time for a garden is about 20 minutes, plus or minus depending on the complexity. At the moment, we have one garden (in Queen's Park) and a cluster of gardens (near 8th Ave & 12th St). We give priority to member's gardens. How about it? Can we visit your garden this year? If you have been procrastinating on getting that hard landscaping or another project done, this is the event for you. Nothing like having a deadline! ...and, if you don't get it completed, do not worry as we are all half-way through gardening projects. Talk with Audrey (fireplace table). The tour is for adults only—no kids, no pets. Members and

their friends are welcome. There will be no sign-up sheet. The map and itinerary will be available as a hard copy only at the July meeting. It will be your ticket for the tour. The tour starts about 1pm or 2pm, depending on the number of gardens and time needed for driving.

The Pot-Luck Picnic: The picnic starts at about 4:30pm—and wraps-up at about 7pm. It is at Audrey's. Although the event is adult oriented, kids (but, sorry, not pets) are welcome. Members are also invited to bring their friends. The sign-up sheet for your pot-luck donation will be available at both the June and July meetings and with Audrey at all other times. On the sign-up sheet there is a space for indicating the number of people in your party. Great food! Great company!

CONTACTS:

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Audrey Barnes: Contests;

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