

Newsletter



www.newwesthortsociety.org

March 2019

WELCOME TO SPRING...MAYBE...

Okaay...what's the deal with this weather? When is the snow going to melt? Isn't the reason we change our clocks to daylight savings time is to have more time to enjoy longer evenings in our gardens? Spring officially starts in less than 10 days. Hmmm... something is definitely askew.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

by *Lorna Cloutier*

Next month is NWS's 85th Anniversary (that is a very long time) and we are still a strong, active and vibrant gardening club. We currently have 12 life members, meaning they have belonged to NWS for 25 years or more of uninterrupted membership. We also have an additional 18 who have been members for 20 years or more, 24 for 15 years and another 19 who have been members for at least 10 years. That is a total of 73 members or 53% of our membership who have belonged for 10 years or longer!! Quite a statistic!!

Why do people belong to groups such as our club for so many years? A sense of belonging is an instinctual human need. We fulfill our need to belong through the connections and relationships we make with our gardening community. Working on projects as a group, rather than on your own, provides distinct feelings of comradeship. Today, in our digital world, it is easy to learn much from the internet but belonging to a club engages all of your senses when you actively participate in the meetings, workshops, July Show, Bring to Share, Plant Sales, Christmas Crafts and community involvement projects. Our club over the years has given a lot back to our local community: The Christmas charity donations, BC-CGC Scholarship Trust Fund donations, Family Day, PAR GAR, Queensborough fall Fair and various community beautification and habitat protection projects. In the emailer this month I wrote about the Glenbrook Ravine Restoration. I encourage you all to actively participate in our club's activities in whatever area that interests you and suits your abilities.

NWS IS 85 YEARS OLD IN APRIL!!!

...and we are having a party! Let us eat cake! The anniversary committee has been planning the celebration for months. The underlining theme: savour the club's past while enjoying the club's present. We hope you will come, whether you are a "new" or "old" member. A few special guests have been invited as well. Numerous displays will highlight parts of our history. Special door prizes, compliments of supporters of NWS, will be won.

To enhance the ambience of the evening, you are asked to don your "Garden Party Hat". Don't have one? You have a month to get creative. Bring a "Tea Cup" instead of a mug. We are going upscale for the evening. Got a club shirt? Wear your allegiance with pride. It will be a fun evening.

Our presentation for the evening will be by Oana Capota, curator for the New Westminster Museum and Archives. She will present "Branching Out: Plants in New Westminster's History", based on the excellent 2016 exhibit at the Anvil Centre. From New Westminster's earliest days as Stump City to today, there are almost as many stories as the plants themselves.

In the past, gifts to the city have been part of the celebration of the club's significant anniversaries. For our 50th, we gave the city two concrete planters for the area in front of the court house. For our 75th we donated money and manpower to the restoration of the Rose Garden in Queens Park. For the 85th, we will be partnering with the City's Parks and Recreation Department in the creation of a pollinating garden adjacent to the new natural playground in Sapperton Park (across from Royal Columbian Hospital) later this spring. Our partnership will include a financial donation along with the club members having an opportunity to help the planting. Stay tuned for more details to come.

Tonight's Meeting

Tuesday, Mar 12, 2019
Speaker: Annie Johannessen on "Vegetable Gardening 12 Months a Year"
Spring Bring to Share
Membership renewals: only \$15
Registration for BC Council meeting
2019 NWS budget vote

Mark Your Calendar

Plant a Row, Grow a Row Spring Gardeners' Party

Thurs, Mar 14, 6:00 sharp
St Thomas More Collegiate
7450 12th Ave, Burnaby
(see article)

Vancouver Orchid Society Show & Sale

Sat, Mar 23, 9-5; Sat, Mar 24, 10-4
VanDusen Gardens - Floral Hall
\$7 adults, \$6 students & seniors.
(does not include garden admission)
info: 604-874-5534 or ewnash@live.ca

BC Council of Garden Clubs' Spring Meeting & AGM

Sat, Apr 6, 8:30am-4pm
Firefighters Banquet & Conference Centre, Metrotown
6515 Bonsor St, Burnaby
Registration required
(see article)

Alpine Garden Club of BC Spring Show & Sale

Sat, Apr 7, 11:30am - 3:30pm
VanDusen Gardens - Floral Hall
www.agc.bc.ca

NWS April General Meeting:

Tues, Apr 9, 7:30pm
Our 85TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY!!
Speaker: Oana Capota on "Branching Out: Plants in New Westminster's History"
(see article)

NWS Spring Plant Sale:

Sat, May 4, 10-3
New Westminster Senior Secondary School roundabout
8th St at Dublin St, New West
(see article)

TREASURER'S REPORT - Feb 2018

Total Revenue: \$459.00
Total Expenses: \$479.23
(includes \$400 donation to BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Trust Fund) See bulletin board for full report.

New Westminster Horticultural Society March 2019

PLANT A ROW GROW A ROW:

Wow! This will be the 20th anniversary of PAR GAR. A lot has changed in the 20 years, a lot has remained the same. The basic premise of the program remains to share home grown produce with those less fortunate in the city. Many donate excess from bumper crops in their vegetable patches. Others jump right in and plant extra vegetables just to donate. Are you familiar with Claude leDoux's boulevard? Most of those vegetables get donated to PAR GAR. The meaning behind the title is: in your vegetable garden, plant a row for yourself, grow a row to donate. Originally the gathered food was donated to the New Westminster Food Bank. Change was forced on that practice when our local Food Bank lost its fridges and could no longer store the produce. Now the produce is directed toward the Union Gospel Mission and other local shelters and recovery homes within New Westminster.

The Gardener's Party: This is an evening of sharing and learning valuable tips on growing fruits and vegetables. A huge number of prizes are given away. Kids get the first prizes. All sorts of handouts and giveaways. Coffee/tea and home baked treats. Claude leDoux, local coordinator for PAR GAR is the evening's MC. Brian Minter, the program's national spokesperson, will zip in with some inspiration and leave enthusiasm behind. Presenters include Conway Lum (GardenWorks Mandeville), June Hewko (Lee Valley Tools) and Alex Augustyniak (West Coast Seeds). Others have display tables. The evening starts at 6:00 sharp (psst! You'll want to get there early before handouts run out) and runs to about 9:00pm. Admission is free but donations of non-perishable food or money would be appreciated. Bring your kids!

Drop off Times: Donations of fresh fruit and vegetables are collected every Sunday morning 8:30 to 9:15 at the St Thomas More entrance (7450 12th Ave, Burnaby). Produce drop-off starts June 23 and runs to Sept 19. If you don't have any home grown, why not purchase some produce to share. The recipients will appreciate it just as much. It is a jovial crowd that hangs out at the drop-off. Doing good things for your community just makes you feel good. It is a delight when kids proudly carry in things they have grown.

HERITAGE HOME TOUR 2019

VOLUNTEERING:

The New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society is looking for volunteers for the Heritage Homes Tour on Sunday, May 26th. The theme this year is Heritage Women of New Westminster and this year will be a very special event, in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Homes Tour. In addition to an array of interesting open homes there will be exclusive guided tours of the 'Ballet House', walking tours in the Queens Park neighbourhood, and a Heritage Fair in Tipperary Park featuring a Heritage Women's exhibit, Food Trucks plus beer and wine tastings. Volunteers are needed for the open homes and the Heritage Women's exhibit. As a volunteer you get a free tour ticket and express pass to see as much as possible by bypassing any lineups. There are two shifts; Morning (9:45 - 1:30) Afternoon (1:15 - 5). If you, or any family or friends are interested please contact Sherri Summers, NWHPS Volunteer Coordinator at sherrijsummers@gmail.com or at 778-789-3759. Tour tickets are \$35 or, if you are a NWHPS member, \$25. Go to www.newwestheritage.org to buy a membership anytime. Purchase tour tickets on-line later in March.

NEW WESTMINSTER PARKS HANGING BASKETS:

Yes! Another sign that spring will soon be here. The schedule for beginner (never made a basket before) and experienced (have previously made baskets and have the hardware) hanging basket courses are on pages 70 & 71 of the city's 2019 Spring Active Living Guide. Find it at www.newwestcity.ca/parks-and-recreation/recreation/active-living-guide-and-brochures.

The options are for 1 or 2 baskets per person, 14" or 18" diameters. Loads of details supplied. Registration can now be done on-line or at any parks office.

These baskets are down-right gorgeous. You won't regret your decision to sign-up. If you have questions, call 604-527-4567.

UNEXPECTED GENEROSITY:

When Terri CK visited Nutrien (aka Evergro) to obtain seeding and potting soil for our sale, she asked if they gave garden club discount. No. But what a great surprize, they donated a bale of each soil type for our sale! Nutrien prefers not to do small retail orders but perhaps as a group? In the meanwhile, our thanks here will have to suffice.

NWSS ATHLETICS MANURE SALE:

Finally, after many years of "maybe", the high school mushroom manure sale is meshing with our garden club sale. The manure sale runs from May 2-4 and they will be selling bags on-site at our plant sale. Details coming next month on how you can order bags of manure and have them home delivered if you live in New Westminster.

BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS SPRING 2019 MEETING & AGM:

This year marks the Council's 75th Anniversary. They have a great day planned. You won't want to miss it. First up is the AGM: voting in some new executive and agreeing to a couple of "makes sense" constitutional amendments. Eric Hees, Second Vice President, will update us on the recent "Visioning the BCCGC's Future" workshop at which was discussed how the Council should start preparing for "Gardening in the New Millennium", how can it attract new members and continue to be a vital organization. A topic of interest to every garden club. Speaker-wise they pulled out all the stops: Brian Minter and Doug Justice! We will be dripping with inspiration and enthusiasm. Throughout the day, we get to enjoy a Floral Design Show "Celebrating 75 years". It is open to the public. Go to www.bcgardenclubs.com and follow the logical steps to the show schedule and how to enter. NWHS has a copy of the show judging manual if you want to check out the definition of some of the terms. All BC Council meetings include a delicious buffet lunch. For this meeting, in honor of the occasion, 75th Anniversary Cake will be served. Don't forget the draw-- great prizes, run by the best club in the lower mainland, NWHS. Regular early-bird admission is \$40. This is reduced to \$30 for NWHS members because we subsidize your attendance. Audrey, at the fireplace table, will gladly take your money tonight. After this evening, contact Ellen Berg to register. Deadline for registration via the club is 5pm, Fri, Mar 22. Cheques should be made payable to NWHS.

FLORISSA UPDATE:

We are sorry to have to announce that we will not be participating in the Spring 2019 Florissa Fundraiser. They have been having major glitches with their computer program and because of the timing of our meetings, it just doesn't work to try to do it this spring. We do plan on participating in the Fall. Not to worry, you can purchase gorgeous Van Noort bulbs at garden centres.

New Westminster Horticultural Society March 2019

NWHS SPRING PLANT SALE:

Sat, May 4, 10am-3pm

New Westminster Secondary School Roundabout

Less than 2 months to go! Wow! Only two months for you to get involved in our club's biggest fundraiser. We hope (make that, expect) that each and every member will participate to some extent—it is *your* sale in support of *your* club. Pot up plants as soon as you can. Grow those seedlings. Help set-up, sell and tear-down. Read this and decide how you can help. Got a question? Contact Sharon, Terri or Audrey.

Sale Contact People: (See contact list to right)

Sharon Seki

Terri Clark-Kveton - 1118 - Eighth Avenue

Audrey Barnes - 117 - Seventh Avenue

Making Every Plant Count:

Well, this isn't quite the weather we wanted for our plant sale prep. Pretty tricky to get out there and pot-up when everything is under 6" of snow and frozen. Never fear! We will overcome. We've been in this situation before when the number of plants we wanted was a lot more—and in the end, the sale(s) have been great. The trick is to maximize the value of every plant you pot. Follow as many of these guidelines as you can so that the club gleans as much money as possible from your donations.

- If you have plants but you cannot physically dig them up, contact Sharon for assistance.
- Pot up your plants as early as possible to allow the roots to develop before the top-growth. The more roots, the healthier the plant.
- Water the plants well immediately after potting.
- When you pot a plant, don't compress its roots horizontally in the pot. Try to hold them vertical while you add the soil. This will enable new roots to grow faster and stronger.
- Remember curb appeal. If you have several one stalk suckers from a spreading shrub or plant, don't pot them up individually. Instead group them together so as the plant looks more robust. Sure, you know the plant will grow to a 4'x4' mass of gorgeous vegetation but when small and one mere twig, it doesn't jump out as a "I must have that" plant.
- Plants are obviously more appealing when in leaf. It is hard to sell something that has absolutely no top growth. Blind faith only goes so far. Hold your potted plants, especially hosta, in a warm sunny spot. Yep! Even shade plants. Hopefully, it will be enough to get those leaves to appear.
- Identify your plants with as many details as possible. Having trouble? Ask Audrey. She's had years of figuring out what plant is what. There is a good chance that she will know yours, especially if you purchased it from one of our prior sales.
- If you have a picture of your plant in full splendor (bloom or leaf), send it to Audrey. At least one week before the sale would be good. If you send it via email, that gives her a chance to get it printed and a sale day sign made up. If you have no picture but know the botanical name and bloom colour, send that to her. She will research it and hopefully find a picture.
- Put as much information as you can on the plant tag. Each little bit adds to the desirability of your plant. Write the plant info on the outside curve of the tag. It is preferable to reserve the inside curve for the price only.
- Just before sale time, take a critical look at your plants. Got a discoloured leaf or two? Snip them off at their bases so there is no indication they were ever there. Clip off brown leaf tips.
- Pricing your plant: Our pricing guidelines sheet is widely available. We aim our prices to be about 2/3 of the normal retail price of the same plant in the same condition. Hold off on pricing until just before the sale when you can evaluate the health of your plants. If you have an unusual or rare plant, you probably know best its value. Remember, plants become more common the longer they have been on the market.

Growing from Seed:

Kudos to you if you are growing from seed for the sale. There was a swarm last year for our tomatoes and other vegetables. It is gratifying to see a seed evolve into a plant. Timing just right for the sale can be tricky but your efforts are to be applauded. We thank you for help filling this niche at our sale.

- Because of the weather, Terri's seed starting workshop/demonstration has been cancelled. That doesn't mean, she is not willing to offer guidance. It will just be on a more one-by-one basis. If you have any questions, ask.
- Terri has seed-starting and potting-on soil.
- For our regular potting, we don't bother washing the pots. However when growing from seed, it is best to wash them so that a pathogen does not wipe out your whole crop of babies. Terri and Audrey both have stashes of unwashed pots.
- If later, closer to sale time, you need protected space for your seedlings, speak with Audrey. She will probably have (limited) space in her greenhouse.

CONTACTS:

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

Diane Perry: Vice-President,
Refreshments, 85th Anniversary Party
diane@newwesthortsociety.org

Ellen Berg: Treasurer, membership
renewals, BC Council
604-525-7827 or
ellen@newwesthortsociety.org

Terri Clark-Kveton: Plant sale: grow-
ing from seed, soil
604-525-1954 or
terri@newwesthortsociety.org

Audrey Barnes: Plant Sale: pots,
labels, plant ID, photos, sharpies
604-526-8284 (before 8pm) or
audrey@newwesthortsociety.org

Sharon Seki: Overall plant sale lead,
sale weekend volunteers, signs
604-525-1611 or
sharon@newwesthortsociety.org

New Westminster Horticultural Society

March 2019

Plant Labels:

- Every plant must have its own label. A plant from a bin of un-tagged plants is useless once it has been taken from the bin.
- As stated previously, the more you put on the label, the more it tells the customer (and our sale people) about your plant as its desirability. Include the following:

Botanical Name (Common Name)
Height & Spread. Sun? Shade? Pt Sun/Shade? Sun/Pt Shade
What makes this plant special? growth habit? colour of leaves?
colour of Flower? fragrance?—Think, why would you want to
buy this plant?

- We use cut up vinyl 1" Venetian blinds for most of our plant tags. Audrey has the stash. At non-meeting times, connect with her for any you need.
- We have found that labels made with fine-tip Sharpie pens last a lot longer than those made with pencil or ultra-thin Sharpies. If you need to borrow a fine-tip Sharpie, see Audrey. She has a small supply and can lend you one.
- Computer generated labels are fine for vegetables and annuals. These plants generally do not over-winter.
- If you are growing a huge number of plants from seed, talk with Audrey for a "special order" of the number of blank labels you need. This will ensure we do not run into a panic situation where a lot of blanks are needed with the stash low. Audrey has some ½" blinds that work well with small simple computer-generated labels.

Pricing:

- Our pricing guideline was sent out with our March emailer (and will be sent out again for April). It will aid you in what we think our plants will sell at. If everyone follows it, our pricing should be relatively consistent. Copies are available tonight.
- All prices are to be multiples of 50¢.
- If you can, price your own plants. If you need assistance, consult Sharon at least a week before the sale.
- Hold off on pricing until the final week before the sale so you can evaluate your plants.
- When writing the price on the tag, hold the tag vertical (pointy end down) and write the price on the inside curve of the tag near the top end. When the tag is in the pot, there should be no need to twist your head to read the price.
- Use a fine-tip Sharpie to write the prices.

Volunteering Sale Weekend:

Just because you have no plants to dig and pot or the facilities to start and nurture seedlings, that doesn't mean you can't help with the sale. In fact, you are probably just perfect for helping Friday and Saturday. We need you. Strong bodies are much appreciated. Many hands makes work fun.

- The sign-up sheets will be available at the March and April Meetings. Connect with Sharon for between-meeting sign-up
Fri evening: tentatively 5:30 to 7:30pm: receiving plants, organizing plants by type
Sat, 7:30 to 10am: Setting up canopies, tables; sorting plants and organizing plants on tables
Sat, 10am to 12:30pm: Our busy time. Selling, tallying, replenishing tables
Sat, 12:30 to 3:30pm: Slower sales, replenishing & consolidating tables, take down
- It is possible that transport vehicles will be needed on Fri evening and/or Sat should there be any plants left.

Sale Publicity:

- Small "fridge reminder" posters are available tonight. Grab some to hand out to friends and co-workers.
- Larger letter-size posters are intended for bulletin boards. If you know of a location and are willing to post one there, please put your name on the list near the draw table tonight. We hope to ascertain which areas of the city are covered and which are not. Your guarantee to post in a specific location will help us do that. In April we will make sure you get the poster(s) you need.
- Lawn signs: We are looking for people who live in high foot traffic areas within the city and who would be willing to post a sign on their lawns for the week prior to the sale. The sign-up sheet is with Sharon near the draw table.
- We plan to email electronic versions of our sale posters to the membership. Please forward them to your friends.
- If you know of any other ways we can put out the word about our sale, please talk with Sharon.

This 'n' That:

- If you have pots or trays, please leave them in Audrey's carport (in the lane at 117 Seventh Ave). Do not bother to wash them. Please no pot drop-off after sale day.
- If you need pots for your plants, please talk with Audrey so as you do not take any of her personal stash. Terri also has some pots.
- If you need blank tags, talk with Audrey. She has them safely inside the house.
- If you have Venetian blinds (1" vinyl), please drop them off in Audrey's carport. Please do not dismantle or wash. Blinds can be dropped off any time during the year.
- If you have any cardboard boxes or flats, please leave them in Audrey's carport or bring to sale Sat morning.

Now, lets pot!