

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2010

Officers:

President	Brenda Dumont	743-9882
Vice-President	Ajay Oppelaar	743-6551
Treasurer	Gale MacIntyre	743-9342
Secretary	Elizabeth Coulter	743-2117
Past-President	Barb Kohlman	743-4485

Committee Members:

Plant Sales	Heather Jenkins	733-2268
Kitchen	Arlene Dench	743-5644
Historian	Mary Gale	743-9329
Raffle	Joan Cawker	715-1904
Librarian	Janice Rose	743-5897
Membership	Heather Gibbins	743-0424
Newsletter	Lorraine Little	743-4466
Flower & Garden Show Chair		743-5204

The March meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on **Tuesday MARCH 23rd** (the fourth Tuesday of the month) at the Mill Bay Community Hall. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm but the doors will open at 6:30 pm to provide you with the opportunity to check out the Club Library and sale table, put your exhibits on the floral arrangement and brag tables and chat to members. The theme for the floral arrangement will be **“MARCH MADNESS”**

2009/2010 MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB CALENDAR

Ajay Oppelaar, Vice-president.

Tuesday March 23, 2010	Barb Kohlman	Pruning
Tuesday April 27, 2010	Heidi Hermany	from Gaia College on Water-wise
Gardening Tuesday May 25, 2010	Melissa Noel	from the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee

Speaker for March 23rd meeting

Our own Past President and Horticulture educator for Glendale Gardens, **Barb Kohlman** will be presenting “Pruning in Pictures”. She will be discussing pruning do’s and don’ts, covering a wide range of techniques from pruning basics to creating special looks and forms.

Be sure to attend this informative presentation from one of the Islands top instructors and a familiar face as well.

If you have a suggestion about a speaker or topic you would like to see covered at future meetings, feel free to contact me with names or subjects. You may email me at dangerboy2490@hotmail.com or phone 743-6551.

President’s Report – Mill Bay Garden Club – March 2010

What a great late winter for gardeners! I keep a garden journal of sorts and looking back on it last year this time we had a pretty sizeable snowfall. I remember rushing around in my housecoat and nightgown trying to brush the snow off some of the new shoots! Now I’ve finished the clean-up/weed stage and am Epsom salting, alfalfa meal, organic fertilizing etc. etc.

I attended a rose growing/pruning/care seminar at Glendale Gardens last Sunday and came back full of purpose and vigor and re-pruned my roses with more aggression! I now MUST have a Rosa ‘Royal Sunset’. It’s a climber and our great instructor declared it the ‘best’ climber for my particular exposure. I’ve checked Dinter’s, Buckerfields, GardenWorks in Colwood and Marigold. There are lots of great roses available, including Autumn Sunset, but I haven’t found Royal Sunset as yet. If anyone sees one, I would be very grateful if you could let me know.

We are searching for a Secretary for our Club for 2011. The secretary takes the minutes at the Exec/Committee meeting as well as the general meetings and distributes same. It’s a great position for getting to know our Club and how we operate, and its not too much work apart from meeting times. The position requires someone who is comfortable on a computer and using email. Our current secretary, Elizabeth Coulter, would be pleased to work with someone for the rest of the year to ensure you know all the ins and outs. With over 35 new members since September, hopefully there is one who can take on this important role in our Club. Please contact myself or Elizabeth if you’d like further details or a little encouragement!

We are still looking for a member who could volunteer their outside space for our Potluck Picnic AGM. As always, everyone pitches in – tables are brought, everyone brings their own dishes, etc. The Host just needs to have space for about 100 of us to sit at tables, plug in the coffee and tea and enjoy the festivities. If you'd like to host us for this year – the date would be Tuesday, June 22, 2010, please just let me know.

Each year we also hold tours of our member gardens. Many thanks to Lilah Sadler for being the first volunteer. We will do the tours in July and would love to include your garden on our list.

Some early plans are coming together for this year's bus tour but we still need a few folks to help with the arrangements and to help counting heads on the day. Please contact Barb Kohlman directly at barbkohlman@shaw.ca if you can help.

I am writing a gardening blog that includes daily updates on what I'm doing in my garden to get it ready for participation in the Cowichan Valley Family Services Garden Tour on June 6. I am one of 4 Mill Bay Garden Club members who are on the tour. If you'd like to follow along with my progress, visit <http://cobblehillgarden.wordpress.com> .

As always, we welcome feedback, suggestions, helpful criticisms, etc. Please don't hesitate to contact me at me@brendadumont.com. And heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who work in various capacities for our Club. All are invaluable, but particular thanks to a few new members who have stepped up to the plate to help. It takes a little courage, and we are grateful.

Brenda

Ojay Oppelaar, Vice-President

With such a mild winter, weeds have really taken an early hold in my garden. Every wind borne seed in Mill Bay seems to have made it's way to our yard, especially in the easement at the front of the house. It's a huge expanse of exposed earth right now, and green and lush with everything I don't want.

As my knowledge of all things horticultural expands, I've decided to leave the broad spectrum weed killers I've been guilty of using in the past behind and I've found a terrific tool that is helping me in that regard. It's called a Weed Dragon, purchased from Lee Valley. Basically, it's a garden torch, a small version of what you see being used to lay down tar for road repair. It hooks up to any refillable propane tank and the sense of satisfaction I'm deriving from using it is immense.

Torching weeds gives immediate results and also works as a pre-emergent for seeds where you have open space to work with. It kills everything that comes within a foot or so of the flame, so it cannot be used in most established beds, but for pathways it's the ultimate method.

For years I've been digging out and spraying the weeds in the stone pathway in our back yard. Not any more! Just a quick pass of this 2000 degree flame and weeds and seeds are vanquished forever. In 10 minutes I accomplished more with the torch than in 5 hours of manual labor. Weeds with a taproot need a bit of extra time from the flame to burn away the basal clump of leaves and really cook the top of that root, and every time I do it a little cheer rises in my throat. Take that Mr Dandelion!

The easement is taking a bit longer due to sheer volume though it's almost done and I will be able to start the season out seed and weed free. Once finished, a touch up now and again is all it needs to keep it clean and free of new seeds that the wind delivers.

This tool is also great for preparing new garden beds and lawns when you bring new soil in. Once it's spread out and before you plant or sow just torch the whole surface. Same for yearly cultivation in the vegetable garden: turn the soil and torch the surface. During the growing season, use it between rows to keep them weed free too, saving you time that you can now put towards something more enjoyable, like enjoying the summer!

Kitchen Report
Arlene Dench

Team 11 will be responsible for setting up the hall, kitchen duties and clean up for the **MARCH** meeting. The members of this team are: **Mo and Moe Copiak, Kathy Edmunds, Jill Ehlert, Anne Parry, Sharon Pettersson, Alan and Nancy Pollard, Michele Preston and Valerie Robinson.**

Team 12 will be responsible for setting up the hall, kitchen duties and clean up for the **APRIL** meeting. The members of this team are : **Sandra Alldritt, Kate Johnson, Linda Nelson, Glad and Merv Roth, Lillah Sadler, Laurie Sale, Karen Severson, Dianne Shaw, Pat Spezowka**

To contact **Arlene** phone **743-5644** or email at jaden2@shaw.ca

The Kitchen Times, they are a'changin'

For years, the good women who have volunteered to look after the kitchen duties have had to miss most of the guest speaker and ½ the overall meeting as they have been primarily involved in rinsing, stacking and loading the cups and occasionally plates into the dishwasher.

They are also obliged to serve the tea and coffee and seldom get to enjoy it themselves. Plus, most of us have to drink our tea or coffee *fast* so we can get the cups back to the kitchen before the speaker starts.

No wonder every year or two we are trying to find more volunteers to coordinate the kitchen duties. The work has been more evenly distributed with our new 'team clean-up' concept but the darned kitchen clean-up remains.

So, effective immediately and beginning with the March meeting, we will provide paper cups for immediate disposal along with disposable stir sticks and everyone can self-serve themselves tea or coffee and partake as they wish of the goodies brought every meeting. If you wish, please bring along your own coffee mug or teacup, but we'll ask you to rinse them at home after the meeting. This should allow the Kitchen Coordinator(s) and the clean-up teams the opportunity to enjoy coffee and tea themselves and be able to listen to the speaker.

Finally, we thank everyone for their donations towards our coffee/tea and goodies service each meeting. With our very, very low annual dues, we need to subsidize additional costs with contributions.

Secretary's Corner
With thanks to Barb Kohlman

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Mill Bay Garden Club Tuesday February 23, 2010

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm

All welcomed

President mentioned the size of the club and encouraged everyone to fill out the new Membership form so that we can have an idea and provide what the club wants. President announced that we have a full compliment of people to run the Flower and Garden show---changing format and encouraging more people to enter exhibits. Call for gardens to visit---please volunteer.

Bus tour—President offered some explanation for new members looking for volunteers to plan and run this.

Reminder of Seedy Saturday at Cobble Hill hall on Saturday march 13th.

This is our Silver anniversary of the Mill Bay Garden Club---February 14th, 1985 Mary Gale read the minutes of the very first meeting of the club, which she took. And explained why/how the club got started. The hall had burned down—and a group of people got involved to rebuild—and worked to raise the money for this. Fred Gayle was on the board from the first.

Mary brought a collage of pictures from the Christmas party.

Vice President reports that speakers are as follows:

March 23 Rayanne and Brooke Smith from Marigold on pruning

April Heide Hermary on Waterwise Gardening

May an invasive plant person

Treasurer reports a balance of \$3592.06

Newsletter report---please note our new feature of the Marketplace

Raffle-- blueberries donated by Michael Cowan

Elaine Scott called for club to remember the Plant Sale at the Flower show and urged people to pot up now. Will let the club know when they can be picked up or delivered.

Offered posters from the Victoria Master Gardener's Assn. For the movie "Dirt" – all aspects \$6.00 with an email address to register

Marion Holmes has greenhouse space to be used by anyone interested.

Reminder of Seeds For Malawi Plant Sale on April 24th---supports women in Malawi

Elaine will mail a plant list if anyone is interested—sign up for this.

Welcome back to Bill Herring who has been absent due to an accident.

Ali Morris shared the Brag Table—

Rhodos - 'Christmas Cheer' and 'Airy Fairy'—under a deciduous tree 'Snow Lady'—white and great foliage

Azara microphylla—small leaves / evergreen / full bloom that smells like vanilla.

Shrub *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta' (Harry Lauders walking stick) looks great with frost sitting on the braches therefore winter interest. *Ribes* 'White Icicle'

developed by UBC—plant it in front of a dark background to show the blooms— which happens 2 weeks earlier than the pink one. And *Corylus glabrescens*—easy care, tall variety.

President welcomed guests.

After break---raffle draw Cecile Healy, Beverly Cooper, an unknown lady, Robert Backman, Heather Jenkins

Q&A available now from England—Clapton cauliflower—club-root resistant Prune heathers/*Calluna* spp. now and Irish heather. Winter heathers - *Erica* spp. , prune after blooming

Put seaweed on your asparagus suggestion that you remove any plastic and other contaminants from this first.

Planting potatoes can we use regular ones---if they haven't been treated with a shoot retardant—plant chicken egg size. Bill recommends buying new disease free seed potatoes from a reputable seller eg Buckerfields for best results. Can grow in a garbage bag. Potatoes are heavy feeders and you should add good rich soil as the potato grows---a form of "hilling"

Sample of rose crown gall brought in by Ajay. Sorry, dig out the rose and dispose into garbage or burn. It will spread to other roses.

Speaker: Michael Cowan from Edibella Landscapes

Meeting adjourned.

**Mill Bay Garden Club Financial Report
as of March 8th 2010**

Balance forward from Feb. 10th 2010		\$3592.06
-------------------------------------	--	-----------

Income:

Memberships	\$40
Kitchen	23.41
Plants	71.25
Raffle	67
Name tags	15

Total	\$216.66	\$3808.72
-------	----------	-----------

Expenses:

Seeds for Seedy Saturday	\$13.95
Speaker	125
Cake	85.99
Newsletter	94.09
Name tag	7.29
S/C	11.25

Total	\$337.57
-------	----------

Balance as of March 8th 2010		\$3471.15
------------------------------	--	-----------

Treasurer Gale McIntyre

Our 63rd Community Flower and Garden Show

Your Flower and Garden Show Committee is now well underway with plans to make the 63rd annual edition just as successful and fun as all the previous years. The Flower Show committee is:

Flower Show Inside Hall Coordinator – Mhairi Bruce mbruce8@shaw.ca

Outside Vendors – Gloria Craig – pebbledbeach@shaw.ca and Liz Best – lizbest@gmail.com and Ajay Oppelaar at dangerboy2490@hotmail.com

**Silent Auction – Dot Garbet – dottijg@shaw.ca, Cecile Heatley – doc333@shaw.ca,
Peggy Tyler – ye7eow@shaw.ca, and Romey Pringle – romeypringle@yahoo.ca**

Promotion and Publicity – Heather Jenkins – fishface1@gmail.com and Loraine Little – lriddle@shaw.ca

Treasurer – Janice Rose – aretiredrose@shaw.ca

All Mill Bay Garden Club members should consider entering the Flower Show portion of our Show. The class list has been reduced and made more user-friendly this year to encourage everyone to give it a try. There's lots of help on exhibiting when you bring your blooms or foliage to the hall, and its downright fun if you get a ribbon!

The brochure listing all the classes will be available at our March meeting – pick up a brochure and start thinking of what you might like to exhibit.

Also, we will be circulating sign-up sheets for volunteer assistance on the day of the show and for publicity in the weeks before the show. If you can help with cashiering, table set up, clean-up, putting up signs, entry clerks, poster distribution etc. etc. we would be very grateful. It's a fun and satisfying day and exhibitors and volunteers get in free. This year we will have again the Rotary Club's excellent Pancake Breakfast and the now legendary Strawberry Tea and goodies from the ladies at LAKEHILL Auxilliary.

Publicity has begun already and will escalate as we get closer to the time. If you have a publicity suggestion (if its free publicity, its better!) please just contact either Heather or Loraine.

More info in the upcoming months.....

Your Executive/Committee Group has drafted and approved the following *new* By-law to be voted on by the membership at our Annual General Meeting on June 22, 2010. It is required we publish this new proposed by-law in our newsletter three months in advance so you'll see this notice again in the April and May newsletters. Any questions or clarifications on this new proposed by-law can be directed to the Executive/Committee Group by sending to me@brendadumont.com. All inquiries will receive a response promptly.

Proposed New By-Law

Consideration for all charitable donation proposals each year will be decided by a majority vote of the Executive/Committee Head Group at the May Executive/Committee meeting. Proposals for donations will be sent, in writing, to the Secretary prior to the May Executive/Committee meeting which is held on the second Tuesday of every month. Those donations approved by the Executive/Committee Head Group will be voted on for final approval by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. Criteria for consideration for any charitable donation will include the Club's ability to pay and the nature of the organization requesting donations with preference given to gardening-related requests.

Did you know that....

The View Royal Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30pm, **Wednesday, March 24**. Please note our new venue, at Shoreline Community School, 2750 Shoreline Drive--speaker/presentation for the meeting is to be announced. Sales table includes garden items and plants. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For information, call 727-0501.

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Cobble Hill Farmers' Institute Hall, Cobble Hill

Vancouver Island Heather Society Spring Heather Sale.

Doors open at 9:30 am. Sale from 10-noon or until sold out.

Come early to get the best choice of winter blooming heaths, summer blooming heathers with coloured foliage or spring tips, summer blooming Irish heathers, tree heaths, starter kits with planting diagrams and planter arrangements.

Contact Elaine Scott @ 250-743-0965 or _TheScottRogers@aol.com

(mailto:TheScottRogers@aol.com) for more information. Also if you would like her to email you a list of the plants for sale please contact Elaine.

Saturday April 24, 2010

PLANT SALE

MILL BAY CHAPTER, SEEDS FOR MALAWI

Elaine Scott's Garden

2836 Oceanside Lane, Mill Bay 9 am - 2 pm.

Plants grown by four of our members including Ali Morris, Sharon Martin, Barb Kohlman and Elaine Scott. A wide variety of healthy and interesting plants available. All proceeds for Seeds for Malawi - a program of the Salt Spring Island Garden Club. Last year the money sent from Salt Spring Island to Malawi supported 95 households to grow enough food to feed themselves for a year, assisted 45 orphaned children with secondary school fees, and provided nutritional support for a small number of HIV-positive women to increase the effectiveness of their drug therapy. The sale provides you with the opportunity to support a very good cause and obtain healthy and interesting plants at a reasonable cost.

Cover available if wet.

Contact Elaine Scott @250-750-0965 or [_TheScottRogers@aol.com_](mailto:TheScottRogers@aol.com) (mailto:TheScottRogers@aol.com) for more information or if you would like her to email you a copy of the list of plants that will be for sale.

Victoria Dahlia Society

Spring 2010 Plant and Tuber Sale

April 24th, 2010 Starts at 8:30am until stock sells out - Come early!

Please note that the start time for the tuber sale will be 8:30 am, when the mall doors are opened, even though the stores in the mall do not open until 9:30 am.

Hillside Centre, 1644 Hillside Ave, Victoria, BC

Contact: Cathy Featherby at (250) 479-6023 or cdfeather@shaw.ca

Free Rhodos for First 50 Customers

Annual Rhododendron and Plant Sale

Saturday May 1, 2010 10 am - 1:30 pm

Queen of Angels School Gym Maple Bay Road Duncan

- * Doors open at 10 am sharp until 1:30 pm.
- * Come early for best selection
- * Free rhododendron plant for the first 50 customers
- * More than 2000 rhodos and other plants for sale

- * Unique, special and hard to find rhodos for sale
- * Many different growers and sellers of high quality plants from all over Vancouver Island
- * Free planting, growing, maintenance advice from dedicated rhodoholics
- * Truss (flower) display of local rhodos in bloom
- * Refreshments

**MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE
JUNE 12, 2010 AT THE FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW**

Your Plant Sale Committee (Barb Kohlman, Mary Gale, Margaret Martin, Janis Feurer, Margo Johnston, Ali Morris, Lorraine Little and Elaine Scott) with the assistance on the day of Heather Jenkins and Ruby Armour would like to remind you to pot up plants now for the sale. This means that the plants will be well rooted by June 12. Please make sure that the pots you use are clean and have been dipped in a bucket of water with a small amount of bleach in it. Invasive plants should be avoided as should potting up plants from areas in which invasive plants are growing. If you know the plant to be deer resistant please indicate so on the tag and please name the plant with the Latin name if possible.

This is an important fund raiser for the Club. We really encourage you to donate plants to the sale as this really helps us to have a wide range of healthy and interesting plants. If you have any questions regarding plants that you wish to donate or if you would like to help with the sale please give me a call at 250-743-0965.

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

New and returning Clubs affiliating with the BC Council of Garden Clubs, welcome to 2010! There are two upcoming events that you may wish to bring to the attention of your members:

1 Ten classes in a Horticultural Judging School on five weekends (Apr 10/11, May 15/16, July 10/11, Aug 14/15, Sep 25/26). The course will include: Judging of Roses, Dahlia, Lilies, Orchids, Cacti & Succulents, Pelargonium & Gesneriad, Bulbs & Tubers, Fruits & Vegetables, and much additional useful information. See

details in the Jan/Feb and March/April 2010 Bulletins or call Margaret Nakahara 604-980-4430. Registration deadline ASAP please.

2 BCCGC Annual General Meeting, March 20, 2010, registration deadline March 12. In addition to the usual business, we have two very interesting and topical talks: Daniel Mosquin on "The Impact of Climate Change on Horticulture", and Arveena Hamir on "Growing Vegetables, with Emphasis on Asian vegetables". For more detail see the Jan/Feb and upcoming March/April Bulletins. For those wishing to spend an extra day in Vancouver, some hotels offer reasonable discount rates (call or email me for information). The extra day would allow for a walk or tour of UBC Botanical Gardens (half price for BCCGC members - bring your club card!) or Vandusen Gardens, the Queen Elizabeth Arboretum, Stanley Park and Park and Tilford Gardens.

Regards, Louis K. Peterson, BCCGC Prez, 604-921-7260, lpeterso@sfu.ca

Problems with Broom? Blackberries? Gorse?

"Reclaim your land" with invasive weed specialist Glenn Miller, April 23, on Salt Spring Island. Glenn Miller, is well known in the Pacific North West for his work as an integrated weed management specialist with the Oregon Department of Agriculture . He will speak on restoration practices for the backyard and small acreages.

Place: Community Gospel Church, 147 Vesuvius Bay Rd Salt Spring Island

Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

250-537-4799 for more information. Some billets are available for off- island guests..

Plant Sale & Open Garden

Saturday April 17th 10-1- Evelyn Weesjes- Wide selection of ferns, rhododendrons & shrubs-10629 Derrick Road (left off West Saanich Rd. to Downey, left off Downey to Derrick) come early for best selection.

Plant Sale & Open Garden

Sunday April 25th 10-1 Carmen Varcoe & Friends- Wide selection of perennials-5450 Old West Saanich Rd. (some parking available next door at the Gazebo B & B).

Plantaholics Plant Sale

Sunday May 23rd 9-12 Abkhazi Gardens -1964 Fairfield Rd. Parking at Margaret Jenkins School. Gardens open free 9-12.

Community Education at Glendale Gardens

The last of the education courses for the spring- a new slate will start in the early fall. Please let us know if there is something you would like to see us cover.

Remember- Heather Sale on Saturday 10 am- the shipment just arrived and the glasshouse is a blaze of colour- fantastic!

How to Grow Roses

Sunday March 14th 1 pm- 4 pm

Rose expert Dion Latavniks covers rose care through the year: how to choose the perfect rose for the location, how to plant, prune, general maintenance including an organic approach to pests & diseases

HCP Members \$25.00 Non-HCP Members \$40.00

How to Propagate

Saturday March 20th 1 pm- 4 pm

Jane Tice & Gwyn Gardam will cover all the basic techniques of plant propagation: seed starting, pricking out & potting on, division & stem & root cutting & layering. This will be hands-on and boots in the mud so dress accordingly.

HCP Members \$45.00 Non- HCP Members \$60.00

Plants of the Southern Hemisphere

Sunday March 28th 1 pm-4 pm

There are an increasing number of plants from the southern hemisphere appearing in our gardens. Judith McLauchlan will introduce you to the best ones for our climate, the conditions that will bring the most success and ideas of how to integrate them into an existing design. This course is a must for plant lovers.

HCP Members \$25.00 Non-HCP Members \$40.00

Our Centennial Garden Clean Up

Did you know that the little garden to the right when you enter the Mill Bay Community Hall was established in 2000 by the Mill Bay Garden Club as a Centennial Garden. We have a memorial to long-time late member Ida McDowell there and twice yearly we hold a work party to prune, weed, rejuvenate, and generally spruce up the area. We are having a clean-up session, beginning at 9:00 a.m. this upcoming Saturday, March 20th. Ajay, Barb, and I need a few helpers please. Bring your pruners, clippers, gloves and spade and we'll be finished and gone by 10:30 a.m. - Many hands make light work! Look forward to seeing YOU there. Brenda

MARKETPLACE

Ajay Oppelaar is looking for someone who has large clumps of Hosta that he could get divisions from to create a sizable new Hosta bed in preparation for the Cowichan Valley Garden Tour in June. Will dig myself or help dig, whatever works for you. Price is negotiable, whatever you feel is appropriate. Contact me at dangerboy2490@hotmail.com or phone 743-6551.

Should you have any suggestions regarding items to be covered in the newsletter or contributions for the newsletter, please contact me at lriddle@shaw.ca The cut-off date for submissions to the next newsletter is **April 20, 2010**. Loraine Little, Editor