

## MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER



### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

#### Officers:

President	Brenda Dumont	<a href="mailto:me@brendadumont.com">me@brendadumont.com</a>	743-1638
Vice-President	Ajay Oppelaar	<a href="mailto:dangerboy2490@hotmail.com">dangerboy2490@hotmail.com</a>	743-6551
Treasurer	Gale McIntyre	<a href="mailto:zonagale@shaw.ca">zonagale@shaw.ca</a>	743-9342
Secretary	Elizabeth Coulter	<a href="mailto:elizabethcoulter@shaw.ca">elizabethcoulter@shaw.ca</a>	743-2117
Past-President	Barb Kohlman	<a href="mailto:barbkohlman@shaw.ca">barbkohlman@shaw.ca</a>	743-4485

#### Committee Members:

Plant Sales	Heather Jenkins	<a href="mailto:fishface1@gmail.com">fishface1@gmail.com</a>	733-2268
Kitchen	Arlene Dench	<a href="mailto:jaden2@shaw.ca">jaden2@shaw.ca</a>	743-5644
Historian	Mary Gale		743-9329
Raffle	Joan Cawker	<a href="mailto:jwmj@shaw.ca">jwmj@shaw.ca</a>	715-1904
Librarian	Janice Rose	<a href="mailto:aretiredrose@gmail.com">aretiredrose@gmail.com</a>	743-5897
Membership	Heather Gibbins	<a href="mailto:heathergibbins@yahoo.ca">heathergibbins@yahoo.ca</a>	743-0424
Newsletter	Lorraine Little	<a href="mailto:lriddle@shaw.ca">lriddle@shaw.ca</a>	743-4466
Flower & Garden Show Chair			

**The NOVEMBER meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club** will take place on **Tuesday December 7th** (the fourth Tuesday of the month) at the Mill Bay Community Hall.

This is our Annual Holiday Celebration Pot Luck Event and will start at 6:00 pm but the doors will open at 5:30 pm.

The theme for the table centres will be **“JINGLE BELLS”** Festive Holiday table centerpieces using bells, this floral arrangement will be judged.

#### **2010/2011 MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB CALENDAR**

*Ajay Oppelaar, Vice-president.*

Tuesday Jan. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	Elaine Scott	The fascinating world of heathers and heaths.
Tuesday Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2011	Dianne Pierce	Spring pruning for flowering shrubs

**President's Report – Brenda Dumont**  
[me@brendadumont.com](mailto:me@brendadumont.com)

President's Message for November/December 2010 newsletter

**I am pleased to report that a quorum was struck at the October 26<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Meeting and that all three proposals were passed with the necessary majority.**

**A reminder to everyone who hasn't renewed their membership for the 2010/2011 season, you'll want to do so before December 31, 2010 at the old rates of \$5.00 per person or \$8.00 per couple. Effective January 1, 2011 the membership fee will be \$10.00 per person.**

**We are re-running the details and plans for our Annual Holiday Christmas Celebration Potluck to be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> elsewhere in this newsletter for our new members and those that haven't attended before. It's always a grand and fun time.**

**Your Executive and Committee Heads are working hard to produce a fabulous program for 2011 that will include a pruning seminar, a Perennial session from Royal Roads/ Hatley Castle's wonderful head gardener, Barrie Agar, an entire session on vegetable gardening with our region's best vegetable man, Bill Herring, our 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Flower and Garden Show on June 11, 2011, garden tours, and much more. If you have a topic you'd like to see covered, we are all ears and will try our best to find an expert speaker.**

**From my house and garden to all of yours, our very best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. And may 2011 be your best gardening year yet! My personal thanks to all of you who work so hard on a volunteer basis to make our Club the worthwhile venture that it is.**

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**Ajay Oppelaar, Vice-president.**  
[dangerboy2490@hotmail.com](mailto:dangerboy2490@hotmail.com)

Vice Presidents report By Ajay Oppelaar

The Holiday season is almost upon us once again. It seems like Tom and I just took down our Christmas display a few months ago and here we are hauling it all out again.

For those of you that don't already know, each December the Murray/Oppelaar household puts on a Christmas display unlike anything you've ever seen. It began 6 years ago with a Disney theme holiday wreath that Tom cut from MDF board, then painted, airbrushed and varnished. It was a huge hit within our Fern Ridge Estates neighbourhood.

Every year, time allowing, Tom added more Disney characters to the collection which now numbers more than thirty figures. Some favourites from past years are Mickey and Friends, the Seven Dwarves, and a giant eight-foot dancing hippo from Disney's Fantasia. New this year are the central characters from finding Nemo.

Several years ago, neighbours and friends Heather Gibbins (your membership Chair) and her husband Frank joined in and began to populate their yard with their own Disney favourites. Now they also have several dozen characters as well as an homage to neighbourhood dogs.

You are all invited to come view our displays nightly from dusk till 10:00 p.m. beginning Sunday December 5th and continuing until New Years Eve.

Directions as follows: from Shawnigan/Mill Bay Road turn south on Deloume Road (between Briarwood Crescent and Sylvester Road). Follow Deloume to Gibbs Place, turn right. Turn left on Fern Ridge Estates and then turn right on Arken Terrace. The Murray/Oppelaar home is on the corner of Arken Terrace and Fern Ridge Drive. You won't be able to miss it. The Gibbins residence is just up Arken Terrace on the left side before the cul de sac. I hope to see you all at the Holiday buffet on Dec 7th.

**Treasurer – Gale McIntyre**  
[zonagale@shaw.ca](mailto:zonagale@shaw.ca)

## Mill Bay Garden Club Financial Report as of November 13, 2010

**Balance forward from Oct. 18th 2010** **\$1855.56**

**Income:**

<b>Memberships</b>	<b>\$118</b>	
<b>Plant sales</b>	<b>71.65</b>	
<b>Kitchen</b>	<b>32.10</b>	
<b>Raffle</b>	<b>36.00</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$257.75</b>	<b>\$2113.31</b>

**Expenses:**

<b>Oct. speaker</b>	<b>125</b>	
<b>batteries</b>	<b>8.95</b>	<b>Oct.</b>
<b>s/c</b>	<b>11.25</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$145.20</b>	

**Balance: as of November 13th 2010** **\$1968.11**

**Treasurer Gale McIntyre**

**Reminder** Dues are past due. If planning to pay at Christmas party Please bring exact amount in envelope with name and e-mail address Thank-you in advance

**Secretary's Corner - Elizabeth Coulter**  
[elizabethcoulter@shaw.ca](mailto:elizabethcoulter@shaw.ca)  
**GENERAL MEETING, MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB**  
**Tuesday, October 26, 2010**  
**MINUTES**

**Welcome**

**Moved** to destroy the ballots from the Extraordinary Meeting

Moved by Roberta Calverly, seconded by Janice Rose

Carried

**Motion** to Adopt Minutes from September 2010 meeting as circulated.

Carried.

**President's Report – Brenda Dumont**

- + Results of Extraordinary Meeting – all three proposals were approved by over a 2/3 majority.
- + Round of applause to Heather and Nick Jenkins who will look after the Centennial Garden outside the Mill Bay Community Hall
- + Chairman, Flower and Garden Show – our 64<sup>th</sup> Edition – still working on finding a Chairman; we also will need a Silent Auction chairman.
- + All details re the Holiday Season Potluck are in the newsletter. Any questions?
- + Volunteering. Does anyone have any suggestions on how to manage the necessary monthly chores? Our current method is simply not working and we need suggestions from the membership.

**Vice-President's Report – Ajay Oppelaar**

Thank you everyone for coming early for the extraordinary meeting.

Patti Brown is here

**Treasurer's Report – Gale McIntyre**

Moved by Bill Herring

Seconded by Dot Garbett

That the Treasurer's Report be accepted as circulated in the Newsletter. Carried.

**Library – Janice Rose**

Books on Autumn Gardening topics and several new books are available.

**Newsletter - none**

**Plant Sales - none**

**Kitchen – Arlene**

Thank you to all who come out willingly when asked.

**Historian**

**Elaine** is helping to organize a 2-day event of speakers and workshops on Jan 29 “Mixing it up in the urban garden”, with many different workshops. Saturday, January 29th. Until October 31, the ticket price is ONLY \$45 -- a saving of \$10 vs November 1 onwards. The ticket includes 5 expert speakers, lunch and nutrition snacks, and lots of interesting vendors.  
See Elaine for tickets.

The question was raised why the gift exchange at the Christmas meeting had been stopped. Discussion ensued;

Moved by Ruby Armour that the gift exchange be re-instated

Seconded by Gale MvIntyre

By a show of hands, the motion to re-instate the gift exchange was defeated.

### **Brag Table – Fall Fiesta – Elizabeth Coulter**

Nine bouquets and arrangements were brought in and all were exceptional.

Ruby Armour won a bag of tulip bulbs in the name draw.

### **Coffee, Tea**

### **Raffle – Joan Cawker**

**Question and Answer Period** – Bill Herring answered questions

**Guest Speaker** – Patti Brown, Glendale Gardens

“Winter in the Garden”

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

**Mill Bay Garden Club**  
***Kitchen Report - Arlene Dench***  
**[jaden2@shaw.ca](mailto:jaden2@shaw.ca)**

**Team 17** will be responsible for setting up the hall, kitchen duties and clean up for the Holiday Potluck. The members of this team are:

**PAULINE DUECK, CHRIS AND DEE HARVEY, TINA AND DAVID KNOTT, WILLIE MCDERMOT, GALE McINTYRE and AUDREY SQUIRE**

We also need to remind everyone coming to the potluck that:

- 1) There is VERY limited space to keep food warm, and
- 2) It is NOT possible to COOK ANYTHING at the hall.

Tea and coffee will be supplied in addition to the punch but members need to remember to bring their own cups.

**Team 18** will be responsible for setting up the hall, kitchen duties and clean up for the JANUARY 2011 meeting. The members of this team are:

**RUBY ARMOUR, JENICA ASHLEY, LIZ BEST, ELAINE BLISS, GUNNELL BORGE, BEV BRAITHWAITE, DUSTIN AND JODY CARSON and ANNA AND DAVID CASSADY**

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATION/CHRISTMAS PARTY POTLUCK

**This year our celebration will be held on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Mill Bay Community Hall. Every year the doors will open at 5:30 pm, and we will get started at 6:00 p.m.

The team that's designated for our November/December meeting will be on hand to set up the tables, chairs etc. in a dining room style, but help from the entire club in setting up and taking down would be much appreciated during this festive season. Many hands make light work. The Mill Bay Community league decorates the hall and the atmosphere is fun and festive.

We bust out our Club-owned tableclothes for the event (just imagine!) and everyone brings plates, cups, glasses, napkins and cutlery as appropriate. Bring whatever suits you. Some people bring their finest china and others have an equal celebration with paper plates! Whatever you bring, please be prepared to take them home for cleaning. We don't have the facilities or the staff to wash any dishes at this event.

Every year the potluck is magnificent. This year the Club will provide two turkeys and a ham (many thanks to Janice Rose, Heather Gibbins and Arlene Dench) so we'll need accompaniments and desserts – your choice. Every year things have evened out nicely although heaven only knows how it works. Some bring potatoes, some bring dressing, vegetables, savouries, etc. – it really turns out to be quite a feast!

We put holiday tunes on the boombox and we've been known to do a little Christmas Caroling.

Each year we have a competition for the best centerpiece. Last year's entries were magnificent. The theme for the centerpiece will be "**Jingle Bells**" Each festive Holiday table centerpieces must have at least one bell.

If you wish to have wine or any adult beverage with your dinner please include what you'd like within your supplies. Please, however, **remember BC's new, stricter liquor laws** and ensure a designated driver is delegated within your group or a taxi or a pick-up is arranged. We want this celebration to be a fun and safe event. Every year Barb Kohlman prepares an excellent non-alcoholic punch and we thank Barb in advance for this very valuable (and tasty!) contribution.

Finally, tis the season to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. We would ask that **you bring a non-perishable Food Donation** to add to the food bank boxes that we will have at the door. Every year we are pleased to bring several boxes to the Mill Bay Food Bank and they are always overjoyed and extremely grateful.

### Did you know that....

### GOOD NEWS.....

**Do You Want to Learn to Grow Food?**

**Design Your Edible Garden with JOY...**

**is taking registrations for our next 4 Week series starting...**

**When: Wednesday Nov. 10 - Thursday Dec. 2, 2010 (4 sessions)**

**Where: Sunflower Cafe, 149 Canada Ave. 6:30 - 8:00pm**

**Cost: \$15.00 per class, \$50.00 for all 4**

**Topics Covered: Design Concepts, What to Consider, Reading the Landscape  
Water, Catchment, Ponds, Irrigation, Store it in the Soil Soil, Compost, Sheet Mulching,  
Hay Bales, Natural Fertilizers Planting, Dynamic Accumulators, Fruit Trees, Fruit  
Bearing Shrubs**

**To Register: Max. 12 People, Contact Joy at [growfood@shaw.ca](mailto:growfood@shaw.ca)**

**Next Course:**

**Grow Your Own Holiday Decorations and**

**Decorate for the Holiday Season Using Natural Materials**

**Discover What Shrubs to plant in order to decorate your home for the  
holidays, and harvest the others from Nature.**

**To register or need more info, contact: [growfood@shaw.ca](mailto:growfood@shaw.ca)**

**(Please forward this email to your friends and family who may be interested in Growing Food..  
or Decorating For The Holidays....Thanks Joy)**

### **MIXING IT UP IN THE URBAN GARDEN**

*Presented by the Victoria Master Gardener Association.*

*A GREAT IDEA FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT.*

**Saturday January 29,2011 – Registration \$55**

*A GREAT DAYLONG CONFERENCE*

*At the Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney 8:30am – 4 pm.*

**Speakers and Topics.**

- **Marilyn Soames – Raising chickens in the urban garden**
- **Brenda Jager – The latest buzz about bees**
- **Carol Miles – Sustainable vegetable gardening.**
- **Don Genova – Catching a ride on the slow food train.**
- **Tom Baumann – What’s new with berries and fruit.**

*Plus*

*Fourteen selected vendors and a great silent auction.*

*Lunch, coffee breaks and nutrition snacks included.*

*AND... FIVE MINI WORKSHOPS.*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2011 – Registration \$20**

- **Doyle and Bond – succulent baskets**
- **Fran Ertal’s Chicken Farm – a monthly guide to raising chickens**
- **The New Urban Garden at Glendale Gardens & Woodland – wattle weaving, key principles of sustainable gardening and propagation.**
- **Sea Cider Farm and Ciderhouse – advice on how to grow organic heritage apples *plus* Cider tastings**
- **Vantreight Farms – Celebrate the importance of local agriculture.**

FOR REGISTRATION FORM OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION EMAIL;  
[Mixingitup2011@gmail.com](mailto:Mixingitup2011@gmail.com) or  
Phone Elaine Scott 250-743-0965

# European Art and Garden Tour

# May 2011

(date to be finalized -last two weeks)



Keukenhof Gardens, Holland (Picture from their website)

Tatianna O'Donnell, SCA, has successfully led European Art Tours to Paris, France and Italy. This coming spring, the tour has an added bonus for garden lovers. Tour includes the Van Gogh Museum as well as Rembrandt House in Holland and the Kukenhoff Gardens. After Belgium and Bruges, we take the Eurostar to London, England to see the Chelsea Flower Show as well as the National and Tate galleries.

Many meals, all hotels, airfare and much more included.

**Call Canadian Academic Travel Services at : 1-888- 572-2287**  
**Or e-mail Tatianna O'Donnell : [tatianna@tatiannaodonnell.com](mailto:tatianna@tatiannaodonnell.com)**

Should you have any suggestions regarding items to be covered in the newsletter or contributions for the newsletter, please contact me at [rlittle@shaw.ca](mailto:rlittle@shaw.ca) The cut-off date for submissions to the JANUARY 2011 newsletter is **MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011**. Loraine Little, Editor