

## MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER



### JANUARY 2011

#### 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			

REMEMBER YOUR MUG FOR TEA OR COFFEE

The **JANUARY Meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club** will take place on **Tuesday January 25<sup>th</sup>** (the fourth Tuesday of the month) at the Mill Bay Community Hall. 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 with other members.

The theme for the floral arrangements will be **"WINTER WONDERS"**

### **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 January 2011 newsletter

**A very happy, healthy, productive, prosperous and great growing 2011 to all of you!**

**Your exec and committee members are back hard at work planning new speakers, garden tours, projects, and fun for members in 2011.**

**We will begin the meetings of the Flower Show committee for the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Flower and Garden Show on June 11, 2011. We have nearly a full team but are looking in particular for an energetic type to coordinate the Silent Auction. Dot Garbet and Cecile Healey have done an outstanding job of the Silent Auction over the past few years and are pleased to pass along thorough instructions on what needs doing. With many of our outside vendors supplying donations for the Silent Auction, its become easier over the years to have fabulous items for bidding. Consider joining this talented team!**

**We have begun exploring website companies in earnest to find the best company or individual to create the Mill Bay Garden Club Website. You may wish to visit the Cowichan Valley Garden Club's website to see all the communication and education available to members through a website. Their address is [www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com](http://www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com). Their website was created by a company right in Duncan for a really good price!**

**Here's hoping that winter goes out like a lamb and that we've seen the last of the snow and hard frosts. Probably that's a silly wish, but I know a few plants on my property who would be glad if that wish came true.**

**You can find the emails for all the committee heads and the executive in this newsletter. If you've got a comment, suggestion, beef, whatever, don't hesitate to give us a call – starting with me! See you on the 25<sup>th</sup> at the meeting!**

**Brenda**

---

The Cobble Hill Farmers Institute needs a chairperson (or two co-chairpersons) to run the Horticulture Section of the Fair at the end of August. Assistance will be available. Please contact Willy Cherry of the Farmers Institute or call Brenda if you need more information or are able to help out.

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

Winter has seen a bunch of damage already in my garden from that heavy and long lasting snow of late November. One entire Rhodo has been broken to its lowest branches. I plan on digging it up and replacing it, but I will nurse it back to full beauty by planting it in a hospital bed. Not literally a hospital/gurney type bed, but a portion of my seasonal cutting garden that I will set aside for this Rhodo and other plants to grow on in and recover.

It's a good idea if you've got the space for it. You can plant new and untried perennials in these beds too so you can see what its growth habits are for a year or so before adding to your established beds and borders.

Also it's a great place to experiment with taking cuttings of shrubs and trees. Check online for information on softwood and hardwood cuttings. Simply do a Google or other search engine search by typing in "propagating escallonia by cuttings" (for example). Almost any plant can be propagated in this manner, and it's a great way to share your favourite spring or summer flowering specimens with others. Also it's a one of the ways you can give back to the garden club by donating some of these plants for our annual plant sale at the Flower and Garden Show in June, or for our plant sale table at the monthly general meetings.

To donate plants for either venue, contact Elaine Scott and/or Heather and Nick Jenkins. Elaine organizes the Garden Show plant sale, Nick and Heather run the monthly plant sale table at the general meetings. Aside from membership dues, these two venues are the main financial support for the club along with the outstanding raffle program Joan and Jim Caulker have developed. Many thanks to these dedicated and invaluable club members!

Last year we had a terrific garden tour season over the summer months, with 5 club members who opened their yards up for us all to view. We saw the amazing rose collection of Janice and Laurie Mosely and Ali Morris's astounding terraced woodland gardens full of unusual and amazing collections and specimens.

Lilah Sadler's garden featured a large and established perennial bed featuring the biggest and most outrageous stand of Joe Pye weed I'd ever seen and Barb Kohlman's beautiful garden has a strong emphasis on design and outdoor rooms. My own? Well, let's just say I love hostas, grasses and summer blooming perennials.

If you would be willing to share your garden with us this year, contact me either by email or phone. I'd really like to see a spring garden tour this year if you've got a yard with blooming bulbs and rhododendrons as well as our traditional summer tours.

Your garden doesn't have to be perfect, none are. Weeds are a part of every garden, you can't stop them and there's no need to stress out on whether people will see them or not. I know this from experience. We're all more interested in exploring your personal gardening style and how you use the garden spaces you've created.

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

## Mill Bay Garden Club Financial Report as of January 10, 2011

Balance forward from November 13th 2010 \$1968.11

Income:

December Raffle	\$82.00	
Memberships	41.00	
Total:	123.00	\$2091.11

Expenses:

Nov. & Dec. s/c	22.50	
Christmas party	113.29	
Newsletter	38.59	
Total:	174.38	

Balance: as of January 10, 2011 \$1916.73

Treasurer Gale McIntyre

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

**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, Bev Braithwaite, Dustin and Jody Carlson and Marie Cook.**

**Team 19** will be responsible for setting up the hall, kitchen duties and clean up for the February 2011 meeting. The members of this team are:

**L Corvelo, D Birtwistle, Miriam and Derek Coughlin, Pauline Dueck, Krista Durand, Shirley Durand, Kathy Edmonds, Celine Eggleston and Wendy Friese**

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB**

### **ARTICLE 1:**

Name: The name of this organization shall be known as THE MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB

### **ARTICLE 2:**

#### **Aims and Objectives:**

- a) to foster an interest in gardening in Mill Bay, Shawnigan Lake and Cobble Hill areas;
- b) to assist gardeners by providing knowledgeable speakers at meetings,
- c) to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on a formal and informal basis;
- d) to encourage participation in and co-operation with other local horticultural groups;

### **ARTICLE 3:**

#### **Membership:**

- a) HONORARY MEMBERS may be elected at the Annual Meeting by a majority vote of the members present from among the persons who have contributed time and talents beyond the ordinary.
- b) REGULAR MEMBERSHIP is open to any person in accordance with the aims of the club, and who is in good standing regarding the dues.

### **ARTICLE 4:**

#### **Officers and terms of office:**

- a) Officers of the Club shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.
- b) Officers shall be elected for a term of one year. They are eligible to stand for a second time. To assist continuity in office, it would be desirable if the Vic-President would stand For election as President in the ensuing year.

### **ARTICLE 5:**

#### **Club Meetings:**

- a) Regular Club Meetings shall be held on a monthly basis excepting July and August.
- b) Annual General Meetings shall take place each June, during which the following activities Shall be conducted:
  - 1. Annual Reports
  - 2. Setting of Membership Fees
  - 3. Election of Officers

### **ARTICLE 6:**

#### **Provision for amendments:**

The Constitution may be amended at the Annual Meeting, provided notice is given at the previous monthly club meeting. For its adoption, a resolution to amend the Constitution shall require a 2/3 majority of those voting, a quorum being present.

## MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB BY-LAWS

1. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the guide for meetings.
2. Interpretation: Any pronoun in the by-laws refers to feminine and masculine.
3.
  - a) The President conducts the regular club meetings and is the ex-officio, a member of all committees. He/She calls the meetings of the Executive Committee when necessary, and will appoint sub-committees as required. When a vacancy occurs on the Executive Committee, the president shall appoint a suitable person in the club to complete the term of office.
  - b) The Vice-President assumes the duties of the President in the absence of the President.
  - c) The Secretary keeps records of all meetings of the Club and the Executive Committee: also conducts official correspondence.
  - d) The Treasurer keeps a true account of all financial transactions, and deposits all funds in a local banking facility: also presents an annual Report, and keeps an up-to-date membership list.
  - e) The Past President shall be a member of the Executive Committee.
4. A nominating Committee of 3 members shall be appointed at least four (4) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. The Committee will produce a list of nominees for the Annual Meeting, will ask for nominations from the floor, and will conduct the elections. At the conclusion of the business meeting, the outgoing President shall turn the gavel over to the new President, and shall convene a short meeting of the old and new Executive to arrange for orderly transfer of Signing authority, documents and any other appropriate business.

5. A "Quorum" shall consist of 50% of paid up members or a minimum of 50 members.

6.
  - a) Yearly dues are payable by October 31<sup>st</sup> each year for existing members to remain in good standing.
  - b) Honorary members are exempt from paying dues.

7. 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 the 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.

8. The fiscal year shall commence on June 1<sup>st</sup> and end on May 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

## HOW TO LOOK AFTER YOUR HEATHERS DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER

Many of you will have planted heather plants last fall and will now be wondering what to do with them. These are easy to maintain plants that are generally not bothered by deer. However, they do need a little care and maintenance to perform at their best. If you want to see a local heather garden, visit the Dan Cooke Memorial Garden at Cobble Hill Farmer's Institute. The garden is located on the corner of Fisher and Watson roads in Cobble Hill.

**Pruning** - The upright growing summer blooming varieties (*Calluna vulgaris*) will become leggy and out of control if they are not pruned. They should be pruned back below the blooms in late February or early March before the new growth starts. Even better, prune them in the fall and you will enhance the display of the lovely tip colours that appear on some of the varieties. Be careful not to go back into the old woody parts. One other type of heather that requires pruning is *Daboecia cantabrica* (otherwise known as Irish heath). These can go into the winter looking untidy and if this bothers you just cut off the spent flower stems in late fall. Leave your serious pruning until the spring. These plants can tolerate severe pruning.

As far as your winter blooming varieties are concerned, pruning keeps plants bushy and well shaped and improves flowering. However, it is not always necessary on a regular schedule. If you feel that your winter flowering heathers could do with a bit of a prune, the best time to prune them is after they have finished flowering.

Therefore, the plants that are a must for pruning are the upright growing summer blooming varieties (*Calluna vulgaris*) and the Irish heath (*Daboecia cantabrica*). The others are a tidy up situation and in most cases tidy them up just after they have finished flowering but not in the winter.

**Fertilizing** – Heather do not need fertilizing as this may make them grow too quickly resulting in plants that are quite woody in the middle. As heathers prefer lime-free and well-cultivated soil, amend the soil with peat moss, leaf mould or garden compost to attain a light workable acid soil.

**Watering** – It is important to remember that these are not drought-tolerant plants. They should be watered deeply at least once a week during hot weather. Heather cannot tolerate boggy areas but should never be allowed to dry out during the summer.

**Sun** – Heather need at least half a day of sun to enable them to flower to their potential.

Where to buy heathers – Many of our local nurseries keep a good supply of heathers on hand. As well, the Vancouver Island Heather Society spring sale will be held on Saturday March 26, at the Farmer's Institute Hall in Cobble Hill from 10AM to Noon or until sold out. As we ensure that we have unusual varieties on hand, experienced buyers will tell you that it is essential to get to the hall prior to the doors opening in order to get the best selection. Starter kits consisting of 10 plants and a planning diagram as well as a wide selection of individual plants (including tree heaths) will be on sale. Society members will be on hand to assist you.

**Elaine Scott, Vancouver Island Heather Society**

### **Did you know that....**

**The View Royal Garden Club will hold its general meeting on Wednesday January 26, 2011 at 7:30pm at the Shoreline Community School, 2750 Shoreline Drive. The speaker for the meeting will be Clayton Whitney from the B.C. Fruit Testers' Association. Clayton is a master gardener and will talk about growing fruit in small spaces, ie. dwarfs and espellier. As well there will be a sales table with plants and garden items.**

**Mixing It Up in the Urban Garden**  
**Presented by The Victoria Master Gardener Association**  
*A Great Day Long Conference.*

**Saturday January 29, 2011 – Registration \$55**  
*At the Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney. 8:30am – 4 pm.*

#### **Speakers & Topics**

- **Marilyn Soames** – raising chickens in the urban garden
- **Brenda Jager** – the latest buzz about bees
- **Carol Miles** – sustainable vegetable gardening
- **Don Genova, Luncheon speaker** – catching a ride on the slow food train
- **Tom Baumann** – what's new with berries and fruits

*Plus*

- **Fourteen selected vendors.**

**Lunch, coffee breaks and nutrition snacks included!**

*And....Five Mini Workshops*  
**Sunday January 30, 2011 – Registration \$20**

- **Doyle and Bond** – succulent baskets
- **Red Cedar Moon 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 a registration form or additional information contact Elaine at**  
*TheScottRogers@aol.com or 250-743-0965*



**Beat the February blues by attending the Western Weekend Study Weekend in February 25-27, 2011.**

Details below!



*Along the Silk Road*

**2011 Western Winter Study Weekend  
February 25-27, 2011  
at the Mary Winspear Centre  
2243 Beacon Avenue  
Sidney-by-the-Sea, British Columbia**

**Speakers:**

**Stephanie Ferguson:** expert rock and crevice gardener from Calgary, Alberta

**Vojtěch Holubec:** author of *The Caucasus and its Flowers*, consummate grower of alpines and seed collector

**John Massey:** owner of Ashwood Nurseries, UK ; renowned for his expertise on Asian and European hepaticas

**Hans Roemer:** bulb collector and ecologist

**Yvonne Rorison:** avid photographer of flowers on all continents

**Bill Terry:** Meconopsis expert and author of *Blue Heaven – Encounters with the Blue Poppy*

**Dr. Bobby J. Ward:** from Raleigh, North Carolina, author of *The Plant Hunter's Garden*

**Plus:** Workshops, Plant Sales, Seed Sales, Displays, Open Gardens

**Registration:** Early Bird (before January 28, 2011) \$135. After Jan 28/2011 fee is \$155.

**Hosted by the Vancouver Island Rock & Alpine Garden Society**

**For more information and Registration Form, please visit the website**

[www.virags.ca/winterstudyweekend](http://www.virags.ca/winterstudyweekend)

**Or contact: Registrar – Kathy Lalli** ([kathylalli@hotmail.com](mailto:kathylalli@hotmail.com), 250-478-9251)

# 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)**

## MARKETPLACE

No entries for January/February 2011!

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](mailto:lriddle@shaw.ca) The cut-off date for submissions to the FEBRUARY 2011 newsletter is **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011**. Loraine Little, Editor