

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2011

Officers:

President	Brenda Dumont	me@brendadumont.com	743-1638
Vice-President	Ajay Oppelaar	dangerboy2490@hotmail.com	743-6551
Treasurer	Gale McIntyre	zonagale@shaw.ca	743-9342
Secretary	Elizabeth Coulter	elizabethcoulter@shaw.ca	743-2117
Past-President	Barb Kohlman	barbkohlman@shaw.ca	743-4485

Committee Members:

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

REMEMBER YOUR MUG FOR TEA OR COFFEE

The MARCH Meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on **Tuesday MARCH 22nd** (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 **"March Madness"**

2010/2011 MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB CALENDAR

Ajay Oppelaar, Vice-president.

Tuesday March 22 nd , 2011	Bill Herring	Growing Vegetables for the home garden.
Tuesday April 26 th , 2011	Bernie Dinter	Lawn care

Tuesday March 22nd: Bill Herring on growing vegetables. Bill is our own past President and all around vegetable expert who will share his passion and insight for growing vegetables for the home garden.

President's Report – Brenda Dumont
me@brendadumont.com

President's Message for March 2011 newsletter

After my joyous little rant about hellebores in last month's newsletter, I am sad to report that nearly none of my beauties have fully opened yet. This has been a challenging late winter for plants with the freezing temperatures that persist, plus windy, galey (not Mary), and rainy, rainy weather. But, spring is coming, you can see buds swelling everywhere and the Mill Bay Garden Club is jumping into another great gardening season!

We had LOTS of traffic to our table at Seedy Saturday with many visitors either joining the Club or picking up membership forms. Many people picked up our hot-of-the-press 2011 edition of our Flower Show program. We've updated some classes. We'll have these programs available at our meetings from now on. Be sure to pick up a program, pick a few classes to enter and have fun competing.

The Silent Auction at our Flower and Garden Show is always swamped with people bidding on the great items offered. We obtain those items from donations from local merchants, donations from our garden vendors and, in particular, some of the best items come from donations from our members! Ajay created a container last year with a winning bid of over \$60! You don't have to create a big container, but a nicely potted up plant with great foliage, a basket filled with small gardening items, or a collection of rhizomes from your favourite Iris will be much appreciated. This is a big fundraiser for our Club and helps keep the dues down and the quality of the speakers and programs up. Please consider contributing.

Launch date for our new website is less than a month away. HUGE and profuse thanks to Gloria Craig and Elizabeth Coulter for lending their expertise to creating this important communications tool for our Club for virtually next to nothing. We'll be launching our Facebook Community page just after the website.

Finally, please consider offering your garden for a garden tour this year. Members list 'garden tours' as one of their favourite programs in the club and this year we are 'sharing' tours with the Cowichan Valley Garden Club. You don't have to own a big or particularly established garden to participate. Club members are particularly delighted to see new gardens in progress. Makes it all the more fun when you re-visit years later. Ajay is waiting to hear from you to offer your garden!

We welcome everyone's input and suggestions. Talk to any one of us and consider volunteering within your club. We are starting to make telephone calls to encourage next year's volunteers. Talk to us before we call you!

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

Daylily Gall Midge

Spring is here, things are growing including the new growth on this year's cycle of Daylily foliage. Beginning in early May and extending until early June, the Daylily or Hemerocallis Gall Midge emerges from the soil and starts its life cycle for the year as well.

This pest was introduced to North America around 10 years ago from Europe and quickly made its way to the lower mainland of BC as well as our Vancouver Island region. It is a microscopic fly with a very specific food in mind for its larvae: Daylily buds. Not foliage, but young flower buds only.

This pest has been wreaking havoc all over the greater Victoria area, including my own garden. Barb Kohlman was the first person to point this nasty little worm out to me several years ago when the club toured my garden. She showed me what the affected buds look like and how to control it. Thank you Barb!

From doing my own research, what I've learned is that the Gall Midge has a short window of time to do its damage, emerging from the soil as an adult fly in early May and pretty much being finished with its reproductive life by early June. It seeks out emerging daylily flower buds deep in new foliage and lays its eggs on them. The eggs hatch and the tiny worms burrow into the bud causing the bud to become bloated and distorted as it matures. When the worms are ready to pupate, they emerge from the destroyed bud and drop to the soil, where they as pupae will wait until the following spring to emerge as adults.

To control these little bastards, you have to hand pick off all affected buds, checking daily for new damage. I've got at least 50 mature clumps of daylily in my garden, and last year this amounted to literally 1000's of destroyed buds. Some people have gotten rid of their daylily collections, so disheartened are they by the decrease in mature flowers. I've persevered and hope that this year, damage will be minimal due to my diligence last year.

To destroy the damaged buds full of worms put them in the microwave for a minute or so and then throw them into the trash. Do not compost the buds. Worms can survive and emerge from your compost in the spring. Some people freeze the buds, burn them, whatever, but always encase them in a ziplock bag when you throw them into the trash.

There is plenty of information online about the Gall Midge. Alert your neighbours if they've got daylilies too, and work to keep them out of your neighbourhood. If buying or trading new daylily plants remove them from the pot, shake all soil loose and throw it away! Then wash the exposed roots with a strong spray of water until clean and then plant in your own soil. Otherwise you may be bringing in someone else's crop of Gall Midge.

As mentioned before, we are going to coordinate our garden tour season with the Cowichan Valley Garden Club and allow both clubs to tour the gardens being offered this year. If you would be willing to open your garden for viewing, please get in touch with me. Last year we had a terrific garden tour season with 5 beautiful and distinct gardens included. I'm still interested in a spring garden featuring bulb flowers and rhododendron as well.

Treasurer – Gale McIntyre
zonagale@shaw.ca

Mill Bay Garden Club Financial Report as of March 13, 2011

Balance forward from February 12, 2011 \$1550.49

Income:

February Raffle	\$50.50	
Memberships	110.00	
Kitchen	42.57	
Plant sale	6.00	
Total:	209.07	\$1759.56

Expenses:

Library	\$101.15	
Speaker	125.00	
Computer USB	44.78	
Feb s/c	16.25	
Total:	287.18	

Balance: as of March 13, 2011 \$1472.38

Treasurer Gale McIntyre

Secretary – Elizabeth Coulter
elizabethcoulter@shaw.ca

**GENERAL MEETING, MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB
Tuesday, February 22, 2011
Minutes**

Welcome

The meeting was started early at 6:50 as the snow was coming down heavily and we wanted to get home safely.

President's Report – Brenda Dumont

- ✚ Deadline for Membership Renewal tonight
- ✚ Seedy Saturday – Saturday, March 12th This is a popular event and we will have a booth giving seeds to the children, and information about our club and the Flower Show.
- ✚ Flower Show – Up and ready to go. Promotion is underway, will promote at Seedy Saturday, next meeting on March 18 at Cobblestone Inn. Silent Auction coordinator still required.
- ✚ New committee of Gloria Craig, Elizabeth Coulter and Brenda Dumont is working on new website.
- ✚ Upcoming Events – See the table by the Treasurer/Membership.
Cowichan Valley Rhodo Club has another great tour, Iris Society Convention in late May, Arts in Bloom and other events.
- ✚ Beginning next month we will have a greeter at the door welcoming everyone to ensure that new or potential members have a 'buddy' to help them to experience all the Club's programs and features.

Vice-President's Report – (in Ajay Oppelaar's, President Brenda gave this report)

- ✚ Tonight's speaker is Diana Pierce.
- ✚ A Powerpoint projector has been purchased for \$351.11. This will be available to all speakers.
- ✚ Dustin's latest project for March 26th: **"Mushroom Growing"**
Dustin brought an alder log sprouting shitake mushrooms and spoke about the FREE mushroom workshop planned for March 26th. He will have an expert conducting the workshop at his house. Those who sign-up will get driving instructions and further information. Mushroom spawn and basic starter kits will be available for purchase.

Treasurer's Report – Gale McIntyre

Balance today is \$1550.49

Library – Janice Rose

Our club dues help to purchase the new gardening books; Tonight we have new books on organic gardening and garden design.

Please use our Library and let Janice know of books we should be getting.

Kitchen – Arlene is away tonight and Diane is looking after the kitchen.

Membership

We have 4 new members tonight;

Historian – no report

How to exhibit at a Flower Show – Dot Garbet

This year we will celebrate the 64th Annual Flower Show;

At each meeting Dot will give us exhibiting hints and Flower Show updates.

Brag Table – "What's Up" – Barb Kohlman

Hellebores are displayed as single blooms with various varieties on a single plate.
Not much is up right now so we have few entries; primulas, heather, crocuses.
Barb brought a genus to display – the honeysuckle family – shrubs such as Bagman’s Gold and Silver Edge, also an evergreen honeysuckle vine (Henrii); Viburnum Davidii is evergreen (a good filler); evergreen huckleberry – new foliage is bronze – this is a native plant; garia elliptica – (tassles hang down); pulmonaria “Diana Clare” with silver leaves and blue/burgundy leaves.
Himalayan Lily has seed pods which have just opened.

Coffee, Tea

Raffle –

Several prizes were raffled off.

Guest Speaker – Diana Pierce of Glendale Gardens gave us a very interesting and informative talk on “Pruning of Shrubs and Vines”, after which she answered questions from the members.

President Brenda thanked our guest and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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Here are some of the highlights of Diane’s informative presentation:

Why do we prune?

To remove the three “d”s: the dead, damaged and diseased;

To remove unwanted growth (ie variegated and non-variegated);

To shape – espaliered, or shape;

To reduce size; or to get good growth (smokebush, forsythia)

How do we prune?

“If it blooms late, prune it early”

Smokebush benefits from a severe pruning (you want beautiful leaves)

Late-blooming (after June 15th) Clematis prune down to 1 foot.

Photinia can be pruned every 6 weeks or prune early and maybe a second time.

Thin out thin hydrangea stems; take out 1/3 to 1/2 of all stems. Dead flowers protect the plant through the cold winter,

Ladybugs overwinter in the base of the flower heads, so use your discretion;

Fuschias cut down to 3 inches about March 1st

Red bark dogwood: do not cut down until April; green and yellow twiggy dogwood can be cut earlier in March.

Lavatera, buddleia can take hard pruning; leycesteria formosa (Granny’s curls or Himalayan honeysuckle) require light pruning only;

Scented viburnum will flower Sept – April; do not prune at all.

Winter and Spring flowering plants prune after blooming. (Up until June 15th)

Heather: prune into the green, not the brown or it won’t come back.

Conifers: prune in April and again in August – make cuts invisible.

Cut Escallonia down to 4-6 inches, also Ceanothes – cut down hard to 8 inches and it will come back; also Mexican Orange – take down to 3 inches.

Pieiris: cut to buds into brown stem.

Kerria Japonica – take out 1/3- 1/5 and cut remainder down.

Kitchen Report - Arlene Dench

jaden2@shaw.ca

Team 20 will be responsible for setting up the hall, kitchen duties and clean up for the March 2011 meeting. The members of this team are: **Dot Garbut, Carol Goodger-Hill, Laura and Jim Harper, Eldy and Ken Hart, Chris and Dee Harvey, Cecile and Gordon Healey.**

Team 21 will be responsible for setting up the hall, kitchen duties and clean up for the April 2011 meeting. The members of this team are: **Margo Johnson, Anne Jones, Louise Ketilson, Dawn Lyon, Willie McDermot, Don McDowell, Wendy and Al Mikalishen, Bonnie and Mike Mills, Julie McNally**

Library Report – Janice Rose

aretiredrose@gmail.com

Members are asked to return all borrowed library books at each monthly meeting. Books may be borrowed for only one month at a time. Other members are keen to sign out books from our collection, especially the new ones.

Your friendly librarian

Mushroom Cultivation Workshop

Saturday March 26th 2011 – Rain or Shine

10:00 A.M. - Outdoor Mushroom Cultivation & Soil building Seminar

11:00 A.M. - Mushroom Log Workshop

2836 Glen Eagles Rd. - Shawnigan Lake

Directions:

Travel 10 km down Renfrew Road, past Mason's store in Shawnigan lake.

Take a right on Glen Eagles and look for a huge concrete Buddha on your left just before my driveway. There is a turnaround at the top of the driveway for drop-offs, plus limited parking for those who need it. Otherwise please park on the road and walk up. No washrooms are available so please 'go before you come'.

General information:

Mill Bay Garden Club members (only) are invited to attend an hour long seminar on the tasty joys of Mushroom cultivation. This informative seminar will focus on edible mushroom identification, life cycle, habitat, and cultivation. There will also be information on using mushrooms in your garden via companion planting with mushroom mulch.

After the demonstration, a brief hour long workshop will be held to create 'mushroom logs' to take home.

The event will be held at my mushroom garden in Shawnigan Lake. I will provide all the information and materials needed to begin your very own outdoor mushroom Garden. We will also be placing an order for mushroom 'spawn' - more on ordering below. The seminar will show how to grow edible mushrooms like the commonly cultivated button mushroom, Shitake, and Oyster varieties.

There will also be a small selection of mushrooms used in health supplement, like the Reshi.

Edible Cultivated Mushrooms generally fall into two categories:

the 'Saprophytic (decomposers)' and 'Mycorrhizal'. Decomposer varieties

break down organic material (called 'substrate') like wood chips and manure into rich top soil.

Mycorrhizal mushrooms are also grown on substrates like wood, but they also form symbiotic relationships with the roots of plants. This pairing helps plants attain minerals, resist drought and gain immunity to disease - great for situations in your garden that require mulch! Growing Mycorrhizal mushrooms in your mulch takes gardening to a whole new level.

What to bring:

For the seminar portion bring an Umbrella (just in case). For the workshop half of the event, nothing is required. But, if you bring a power drill the process will go faster. Please remember eye and ear protection if you would like to part of the team actually drilling the holes in the alder logs. Others will inoculate these holes with mushroom spawn - creating our mushroom logs!

I will do my best to gather everyone a log to take home, but we can't have enough logs! Please help by bringing extra wood! Small Alder trees are the best, with a thickness of 3 to 10 inches in diameter and a length of anywhere between 2-4 feet. Only gather live, healthy, disease free wood that is NOT found along a roadside (due to car pollution). Please remove branches well away from the tree trunk, as we will make another cut closer to the log just before we inoculate the logs. Any extra branches will go into a wood chipper to provide you with more 'take home wood chips' for your own mushroom garden. Trees may be cut up to two weeks before inoculation provided they are kept off of the ground (due to competing mushrooms growing up from the ground) There will be two 15' tables set up under cover for our task, so if you care to bring and finish all your logs while the all tools product is ready, please do so.

Mushroom Spawn Ordering information:

By placing a group order we are getting the best price from a Vancouver based mushroom spawn provider named 'Western Biologicals'. Their information/inventory sheet is attached to this e-mail for a complete listing of their mushrooms. If you wish to place an order for something specific/exotic please confirm with me before this Friday to ensure delivery. Our general order for basic mushroom growing kits of Button, Oyster, Shitake, Garden Giant, Morel, and Portobello mushrooms will be met no problem. Early confirmation is still required, but late comers can still get mushroom spawn.

Log Method:

A basic mushroom kit for making Mushroom logs will consist of:

250 inoculated wood plugs (makes 5-10 Logs)

Drill bit

Pruning Sealant (for covering holes and cuts on logs)

This Kit can be ordered for: Oyster, Shitake, Reshi Mushrooms

Cost \$30

250 plugs – any strain \$20

1000plugs – any strain \$40

Sawdust Spawn Method (for making mushroom beds with mulch):

A 7 lb pack of Sawdust Spawn cost \$25 and is available in:

Garden Giant (mycorrhizal)

Almond Mushroom

Shaggy Mane

Portobello

Morel

Shitake (6lb)

NOTE: Mushroom Sawdust inoculates up to 80% more wood chips in 2-10 weeks. This may be done again and again once full colonization of the new substrate is complete. This exponential growth quickly creates enough mushrooms for everyone! So please plan on sharing different strains with friends once your own patch is established. For example there are at least 6 strains of the oyster mushroom available: Red, White, Blue, Golden, Grey and Brown! Other items are available like ready to fruit logs and Mushroom kits.

I will be picking up the spawn just before the Event, but final confirmation and money must be paid by the March 22 Garden Club Meeting.

PLEASE REMIT ORDER ASAP

contact@countrywideornaments.com

Fundraiser:

There will be a hat at the event for donations to raise \$150 for a complete set of mushroom books for the Garden Club Library.

If you have any questions please e-mail me!

contact@countrywideornaments.com

Warm Regards,

Dustin Carlson

PRUNING OF SHRUBS & VINES IN VICTORIA.
DIANE R. PIERCE 592-5808

1. FLOWER AFTER JULY 1ST

PRUNE AFTER FROST

-ABELIA, CLETHRA, HYDRANGEA, VITEX

PRUNE TO 3" MARCH 1st -HARDY FUCHSIAS

LITTLE OR NO PRUNING -HIBISCUS SYRIACUS

PRUNE HARD -BUDDLEIA DAVIDIL, CARYOPTERIS,
LOW HYPERICUM SHRUBS & GROWDCOVERS,
LAVATERA, LEYCESTERIA FORMOSA.

CUT TO 1 TO 2 FEET -CLEMATIS JACKMANII, C. TANGUTICA,
C. VITICELLA.

2. FLOWER BEFORE JULY 1st PRUNE AFTER FROST & AFTER FLOWERING

2A WINTER FLOWERING -CAN CUT SOME BRANCHES FOR INDOORS

LITTLE OR NO PRUNING -CORYLOPSIS, CLEMATIS ARMANDII,
GARRYA, HAMAMELIS, SARCOCOCCA.

ONLY IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY
-VIBURNUM X BODNANTENSE

PRUNE MODERATELY TO HARD
-CHAENOMELES (FLOWERING QUINCE),
CHIMONANTHUS (WINTERSWEET),
LONICERA (HONEYSUCKLE).

PRUNE OUT OLD & WEAK QUITE HARD
-JASMINUM NUDIFLORUM

2B SPRING FLOWERING PRUNE AFTER FLOWERING, TOO

LITTLE OR NO PRUNING & PERHAPS ONLY FADED FLOWERS
-AZALEAS, BUDDLEIA GLOBOSA, CHOISYA,
PIERIS, & RHODOS

SHEAR BACK ONLY INTO GREEN (LIKE HEATHERS)
-BROOMS (CYTISUS, GENISTA, SPARTIUM)

CUT OUT 1/3 OF STEMS -DEUTZIA, FORSYTHIA, KOLKWITZIA,
PHILADELPHIS (MOCK ORANGE). SPIRAEA

PRUNE TO VARYING DEGREES & SITUATIONS
-BUDDLEIA ALTERNIFOLIA, B. GLOBOSA,
CALLISTEMON, CEANOTHUS, CISTUS,
CLEMATIS SPECIES & VARIETIES THAT BLOOM
IN SPRING, PYRACANTHA, RIBES (FLOW.
CURRANT), SPIRAEA, SYRINGA (LILAC),
VIBURNUM x BURKWOODII, V. CARLESII,
V. PLICATUM, WEIGELA

3. FOLIAGE PLANTS MOST PRUNED TO MAINTAIN FORM, SIZE & DENSITY

CUT LOW TO 6-12" EACH MARCH (NON-RED ONES CAN BE CUT EARLIER)

	-TWIGGY DOGWOODS (CORNUS)
FEBRUARY	-PHOTINIA (CAN SHEAR OR CUT BACK TO FORCE LEAFY NEW GROWTH)
APRIL & AUGUST	-CONIFERS
SPRING IS BEST, OR SUMMER	-ARBUTUS UNEDO, AUCUBA (CAN BE CUT BACK HARD), BUXUS, COTONEASTER, ELAEAGNUS, LAURELS (PRUNUS SPECIES & LAURUS NOBILIS), LEUCOTHOE, NANDINA (DWARF ONES RARELY), COTINUS (SMOKEBUSH – FOR BEST LEAVES PRUNE HARD, EVEN TO 18 INCHES, (IN FEB. OR MARCH), SPIRAEA

Did you know that....

View Royal
Garden Club
Spring Show
April 9, 2011

Shoreline Community School Cafeteria
2750 Shoreline Drive

- The school will be open for placing exhibits at 8:30am. Exhibits may also be placed Friday night after set-up at approximately 6:30 pm. Judging starts at 10:15 am SHARP. Exhibits must be in place by 9:45 am.
- Doors will be open for viewing for members and guests at 1 pm.
- ADMISSION \$5 includes door prize ticket and tea served from 1 – 2:30 pm.
- Sale table for plants, garden related items and baked goods.
- Trophies will be awarded at 2:30 pm. Door prizes will be drawn frequently from 1 – 2:30 pm.
- Entries will be removed following award presentations or at chair's discretion.
- Chair: Charlotte Robson
- Stewards Lynne Ewing Brian Yeo
Julie Anne LeRose Gary Sawayama
- Clerks: Donna Humphries Carole Carver
- Carol Ann Elliott
- Social Convener: Ann Fox & Committee
- Sales Table: Joan James & Committee

We would welcome participation from your members at the show. It is open to anyone who would like to enter, or just attend and enjoy the exhibits. Refreshments are included in the \$5.00 admission fee. For more info let me know & I will forward to you the Spring Show Pamphlet
rlittle@shaw.ca

"A plant sale will be held on Saturday, April 16 at Cairnsmore Place, 250 Cairnsmore St from 11:00 to 2:00.

This is a fundraiser organized by the Volunteer Gardeners to raise funds for the maintenance of the gardens.

Everyone is invited to tour the yard to witness the results of work done over the past two years for the enjoyment of the residents and staff. There will be over 300 plants, some birdhouses, and garden ornaments for sale."

Many thanks. Louise

The Vancouver Island Heather Society will be holding its 2011 spring sale on March 26th in the Farmer's Institute Hall in Cobble Hill. The doors will open at 9:30 and the sale will begin at 10am. Be there early to get the best selection. The sale will finish at noon or when sold out.

Demonstrations on pruning, planting and flower arranging using heathers and heaths will take place during the sale. There will be an excellent selection of winter blooming heaths, summer blooming heathers with winter coloured foliage or spring tips, summer blooming heaths and tree heaths. A selection of three different kits of 10 plants with planting diagrams will also be for sale. Members of the Society will be on hand to help you with your selections.

Glendale Gardens

Rock & Alpine Gardening An Introduction Sunday March 20th 1pm - 4 pm

We have the rock but growing this group of plants can be a challenge in our climate. Expert plantsman, Gordon Mackay can teach you all you need to know to be successful. Included will be: the materials required, how to construct the site, the soils & compost required, planting, aftercare & propagation. A demonstration will show how to construct & plant a crevice garden in a trough. A unique selection of plants will also be available for purchase. HCP Members \$25.00 NON-HCP Members \$35.00

Introduction to Mason Bees Sunday March 27th 1 pm-4 pm

Orchard mason bees are just one of the native bee pollinators found locally & are the most beneficial species for pollinating orchards & berry crops. Learn about the complete life-cycle and biology of this species and how best to manage looking after them and encourage them as captive pollinators in your garden or orchard. This introductory class will incorporate condo design, condo maintenance & bee husbandry, as well as how best to look after the long-term sustainability of this popular species of native bee. HCP Members \$25.00 Non-HCP Members \$35.00

Herbs & Edible Flowers Saturday April 2nd 1pm-4 pm

**A well thought out herb garden can provide you with herbs & edible flowers for the year round. Lynda Dowling will take you through the steps & show you how everything goes better with herbs! Session will include: basic designs, bed preparation, seed & plant selection, cultivation, harvesting & preserving methods. Cost incl. plants & blends to go
HCP Members \$40.00 Non-HCP Members \$50.00**

The Garden Story Sunday April 3rd 1pm-3 pm

**Does your garden tell a story? Many of the most memorable gardens can tell their story with a single sentence. Build your garden with a story & you will find you are able to achieve the perfect space. Jeff de Jong will help those who are stuck, uncertain or frustrated with the direction of the garden & help create a perfect space.
HCP Members \$15.00 Non-HCP Members \$25.00**

**Integrated Pest Management Certificate April 2nd & 3rd 9am to 4pm Exam
Monday April 4th 6pm -9pm**

**Obtain or renew your Pesticide Applicator's Certification & learn to manage insects, diseases & weeds in ornamental plantings & turf. This course is for anyone applying pesticides on public land or applicators providing pest management services to clients on private land.
\$460 including textbooks & exam fee.**

Introduction to Basketry Level 2

Cedar Cross Warp Twined Basket Sat. April 30th or Sunday May 1st 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

**In this follow up to the Introduction to Basketry workshop, Joan Carrigan will introduce a round base basket woven over a mould. The cross warp pattern is an open weave pattern that utilizes twining with yellow cedar bark. Yellow cedar bark is a dream to twine with and offers a wonderful material to help fine tune your skills. Tools to bring: scissors with a sharp point, an old towel, spray bottle, curved upholstery needle and a ruler.
Fee includes all material.
HCP Members \$95.00 Non-HCP Members \$135.00**

Victoria Dahlia Society Plant and Tuber Sale

Please be aware that we are having our annual Plant and Tuber Sale.

**The full details are:
Date: Saturday April 30
Time: 9:30am to 5pm
Location: Westshore Town Centre in Langford.**

Event details can also be found on our web site

<http://www.victoriadahliasociety.org/>

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE

JUNE 11, 2011 AT THE FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW.

THE SUCCESS OF OUR GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE DEPENDS ON YOU. BY POTTING UP PLANTS NOW FOR THE SALE YOU ENSURE THAT WE HAVE A WIDE SELECTION OF GOOD QUALITY PLANTS FOR SALE. THE MONEY WE MAKE AT THIS SALE HELPS THE CLUB TO SUPPORT WORTHWHILE COMMUNITY PROJECTS. IF EACH OF YOU DONATED JUST FIVE PLANTS EACH (AND SEVERAL MEMBERS DONATE MANY MORE THAN THAT) IMAGINE WHAT A SELECTION AND NUMBER OF PLANTS WE WILL HAVE FOR SALE.

I AM ASKING THAT YOU CONSIDER THE JUNE PLANT SALE AS YOU UNDERTAKE YOUR SPRING CLEAN-UP AS YOU WILL FIND PLANTS THAT YOU WILL WANT TO POT UP.

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 (10%). 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.

Saturday April 30, 2011

PLANT SALE

TO SUPPORT 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.

Established in 2003, Seeds for Malawi is a grass-roots project that helps families dealing with AIDS in Malawi, Africa. It supports household food gardens, school fees for students and food security initiatives. The program is run by volunteers in both Malawi and Canada so 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) for more information or if you would like her to email you a copy of the list of plants that will be for sale.

The 29th Annual Victoria Conservatory of Music Mother's Day Garden Tour!

It's time to shake off your long winter hibernation and revel in the wonders of spring. The Victoria Conservatory of Music (VCM) extends an invitation to the members of your club to its 29th Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour on May 7 and 8.

Our 29th Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour will lead you down the garden path of discovery. Meander through cloistered paths rich with bursts of luxurious colour. Explore inner sanctums of reflection and contemplation. Wander through motifs ranging from simple to elegant, formal and informal and order and chaos. Your ticket is a self-guided tour of the textures, colours and aromas of spring. Come immerse yourself in a melody of colour and sound as live music will be performed in the gardens by VCM students and faculty. The funds raised go towards supporting the VCM's many great music programs.

TICKETS

\$30.00 for a two-day pass - May 7th and 8th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tickets will be available April 1st at Victoria-based Thrifty Foods locations and other various outlets. Please visit our website at <http://www.victoriagardentour.com/> www.vcm.bc.ca or www.victoriagardentour.com for further information.

Visa, Master Card and debit card payments will be accepted at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, and cash or cheque only at the other outlets. Contact: Victoria Conservatory of Music, 250-386-5311, 1-866-386-5311

VISIT OUR FAMOUS PLANT SALE

Our annual plant sale will feature old favourites and exciting new varieties. The plant sale will be held at one of the garden locations.

We hope you are able to come to the Garden City and enjoy yourself in the luxury of all these gardens. If you have any questions, please contact Brian at volunteer@vcm.bc.ca
Terry LeBlanc and Brian Johnston

Co-chairs

Victoria Conservatory of Music Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour

MARKETPLACE

ANNOUNCING A UNIQUE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The American Iris Society Convention Committee has been blessed with many excellent volunteers for all aspects of the convention. While there are still many opportunities to help there is one position which urgently needs to be filled.

The Host Gardens Committee needs an individual who is able to visit Glendale Gardens approximately once a week from late February through May. The irises need weeding, and we need to coordinate with Glendale's new head gardener to ensure nothing stops the irises from

growing on to give their very best display. (There already is a volunteer with these responsibilities in each of the other three host gardens.) If required periodically, additional help is available to help with iris care. And, just prior to the convention, a large team of individuals will 'groom' the irises for judging by the delegates
Anyone interested in this crucial volunteer role should either phone 250 743 1638 or email Brenda Dumont at gardengoddess11@gmail.com.

*Many thanks for considering this chance to help with the irises at Glendale Gardens.
Brenda*

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 APRIL 2011 newsletter is **MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011**. Loraine Little, Editor