

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER



APRIL 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 APRIL Meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on **Tuesday APRIL 26th** (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 **"Spring Splendour"**

2010/2011 MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB CALENDAR

Ajay Oppelaar, Vice-president.

Tuesday April 26 th , 2011	Bernie Dinter	Lawn care
Tuesday May 24 th , 2011	Barrie Agar	"Cast iron perennials" Tough & hardy perennials for the garden.

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

President's Message for April 2011 newsletter

As I write this, Volunteer Week in Canada is just concluding. All across Canada, Volunteers were recognized for their *invaluable* work in everything from garden clubs to hospitals. I thought I'd take a few minutes here to sincerely thank all who volunteer for both the Mill Bay Garden Club and our Community Flower and Garden Show. We have tremendous contributors who devote significant time and expertise to running our Club – now recognized as one of the most vibrant on Vancouver Island. We also have contributors that volunteer for certain events and chores and we have new members like Dustin Carlson and Dee Evans and Gloria Craig and Liz Best who jump in with both feet and volunteer right off the bat. A huge bow and hats off to each and every one of you!

As a segue to that.....you knew this was coming....we are in the process of appointing our Nomination Committee members for the 2011/2012 year. Thanks to continuing volunteers and new volunteers we have only a few positions to fill – Vice President, Newsletter Editor, and Flower and Garden Show head. Each of these positions isn't time-consuming, isn't something that is done alone without support, and is within a superior executive/committee team already well acquainted with what needs to be done every year to produce wonderful programs for all the members. Please answer the call when one of our Nominating committee contacts you and, if you want to contact us for more details, please feel free to talk to any of the existing Executive and Committee Heads.

A reminder that our new website – <http://www.millbaygardenclub.com> is up and running with the latest news. Please visit and if you have anything you'd like to have launched to the website of a gardening nature, just let us know.

The Community Flower and Garden Show committee is starting to publicize the show set for June 11th. We have changed the timing somewhat. The hall will be set up on Friday, June 10th, entries will be accepted from Noon – 7:00 p.m., the entries will be judged Friday night, and the grounds and hall will open at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. We will operate from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., allowing everyone the opportunity to view the flower show from the very beginning. The great Rotary Pancake Breakfast will start at 8:00 a.m. We will be circulating sign-up forms for volunteers to help on the day before and the day of the show at both our April and May meetings. We need help for things like cashiers, money taking, set up, tear down, etc. All valuable, very appreciated assistance.

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. Happy Gardening! Brenda

Ajay Oppelaar, Vice-president.
dangerboy2490@hotmail.com

Vice Presidents report

Last fall I planted bulbs like I was a crazed addict. 1000's of them. Daffodils, leucojum, hyacinth, muscari, tulips, crocus, boxes and boxes of them. I couldn't stop myself. Now I'm reaping the rewards of spring with a terrific showing of these flowers. Most of the daffs are in bloom, hyacinths are still coming and the tulips are beginning to develop some colour on the buds.

Everyone is welcome to come over and see them. It's not a formal tour, the rest of the yard isn't finished yet for the season, but if you're an aficionado of bulb flowers, it will be worth your time to drive by or walk by. If you don't know your way to my house, email me and I'll send you directions.

Speaking of garden tours, we've had no volunteers yet who would like to include their yard in our summer tour schedule. I'd like to see at least 5 of you sign up. You'll also be sharing your garden with the Cowichan Valley Garden Club members, so for all the hard work you put into getting your garden ready, you'll have a greater number of visitors who come to visit. Contact me soon to put your name on the list.

Also coming up on Saturday the 28th of May, is Bill Herring's follow up to his presentation on vegetable gardening at last month's meeting. Bill is opening his vegetable garden for viewing and questions from 9 a.m. until Noon on May 28th. For any of you interested in growing your own food, you already know Bill is our own valuable resource for knowledgeable and humorous insight on composting and soil preparation, seed starting, transplanting, pests, diseases and ultimately, harvesting. Bill's garden is at 3231 Kilipi Road. For further information, don't hesitate to call him at 743-2195.

Treasurer – Gale McIntyre
zonagale@shaw.ca

Mill Bay Garden Club Financial Report as of April 12, 2011

Balance forward from March 13, 2011		\$1472.38
Income:		
March Raffle	\$72.00	
Memberships	95.00	
Kitchen	42.95	
Plant sale	65.00	
Mushrooms	410.75	
s/c refund	5.00	
Total:	690.70	\$2163.08

Expenses:

Mushrooms Dustin 410.75
Mar s/c 11.25

Total: 422.00

Balance: as of April 12, 2011 \$1741.08

Treasurer Gale McIntyre

Secretary – Elizabeth Coulter
elizabethcoulter@shaw.ca

GENERAL MEETING, MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB
Tuesday, March 22, 2011
MINUTES

Welcome

Welcome to all new members and visitors.

Thank you to Heather and Nick Jenkins for weeding the Centennial Garden.

Motion to Adopt Minutes from February 2011 meeting

Moved by Dot Garbet

Seconded by Heather Gibbins

That the minutes be adopted as circulated.

President's Report – Brenda Dumont

- **WEBSITE!** www.millbaygardenclub.com is now up and running.
- Flower Show – June 11th. Promotion is underway, was promoted at Seedy Saturday; the next Committee will be meeting on April 15th at 7 p.m. at Heather Gibbins House. Silent Auction coordinator is Dee Evans. The Club membership is asked to contribute to the silent Auction.
- Upcoming Events have always got information on the table next to the Treasurer.
- Facebook Fan Page to be launched to publicize our Club and the Flower and Garden Show

Vice-President's Report – Ajay Oppelaar

Tonight's speaker – Bill Herring/ April – Bernie Dinter on lawns; May – Barry Agar "Cast Iron Perennials"

Garden Tours – no one has volunteered their garden yet, but we hope that members will consider opening their garden to our members and the Cowichan Valley Club members;

Gall Midge will feast on the early buds of Stella D'Oro and leave the later buds alone, many Stella D'Oro bulbs available tonight at the Plant table for a donation.

Treasurer's Report – Gale McIntyre

Balance on March 13th is \$1472.38.

See the Treasurer's report for more detail.

Library – Janice Rose

No report tonight as Janice is not here, however the Library is open and books may be signed out. Thank you to Janice's husband for looking after setting-up the library.

Any reports from Plant Sales

Wicker baskets, parsnips, Asiatic lilies available tonight;

Kitchen – Arlene Dench

Thanks to the kitchen team tonight

Membership – Heather Gibbins

Three new members signed-up at at Seedy Saturday and our membership total is around 170 now.

Historian - Mary Gale

Please let Mary know of any member who is sick and she will send a card;

Mushroom Cultivation Workshop

To be held Saturday March 26th

Dustin Carlson reported on the coming workshop and explained what will be happening;

How to exhibit at a Flower Show – Dot Garbet

Dot spoke on "Spring Vegetables" tonight and encouraged us to enter, giving tips on how to show and display our vegetables and rhubarb.

Brag Table – "March Madness" – Barb Kohlman

Several nice displays of early blooms;

Pop Weed (pepper cress) prevalent now in cooler weather – get rid of now – it is edible, as is chick weed.

Coffee, Tea

Raffle – Joan Cawker

Several nice prizes again tonight;

Question and Answer Period – Bill answered several questions pertaining to starting new vegetable gardens.

Guest Speaker – Bill Herring

Some highlights are:

Spinach Beet or Perpetual spinach – available from WestCoast seeds

The earlier you establish plants the better – roots will develop and grow deeper which is better for the hot weather;
Parsnips, potatoes & peas should be planted in March; these like being chilled to germinate;
Bill starts three peas in a pot started in greenhouse “Hurst’s Green Shaft” Peas – good full pods – sweet peas; the Queen Mother’s favourite;
His come from “Edwin Tucker and Sons” seed company in Britain;
Keep vegetable seeds cool and not air tight;
Use seed potatoes from Buckerfields or other supplier; try to keep your own seed potatoes so that you can start them earlier than when they are available;
Plant 6 inches below soil level, then mound up through the growing for protection from frost in April.
Try to get heat-treated onion sets; heat-treating stops them from going to flower (bolting);
OR grow onions from seed, planting February onwards;
Onions grow roots quicker than tops, transplant the seeds at the “hair pin” stage;
“Latah” tomatoes – self-determinate, bush tomatoes – no staking – fruit early but can be peculiar shapes;
Remove seed leaves and plant tomato plant about 1 inch above where seed leaves were. Seeds were started about Feb 14th.
Blight is air/rain born spore – spray with copper sulphate; it is not often that the spores will live on in the soil;
Grow sweet peas in garden to attract bees.
At four-leave stage, pick out the middles of sweet peas to encourage branching growth.
Large plastic jugs with bottom removed makes a great cloche – be sure to remove the lid;
“Enviromesh” available in England, to cover rows of carrots (fine netting) similar to ‘remay’, but more effective’

May 28th 9:30 am to 12 noon Bill’s garden will be open for members to visit.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Coulter, Secretary

Kitchen Report - Arlene Dench
jaden2@shaw.ca

The following members 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, Julie McNally, Bonnie & Mike Mills.

The following members will be responsible for setting up the hall, kitchen duties and clean up for the MAY 2011 meeting. The members of this team are:

Wendy Friese, Annette Gupton, David & Deanna Hewson, Penny Jones, Karen Kennedy, Marg Martin, Sharon Martin, Cynthia Miranda & Monika Morgan

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

Did you know that....

The View Royal Garden Club will hold its general meeting on Wednesday April 27, 2011 at 7:30pm in the Shoreline Community School, 2750 Shoreline Drive. The presenter for this meeting will be Dr. Bill McMillan from Glendale Gardens who will speak on Rhododendrons. Bill's specialty at the Gardens is on Rhododendrons and Hostas. He is also an active member of the Victoria Rhododendron Society. There will be a sales table with plants and garden items available. Visitors and new members are welcome. For further information please call 250-220-5212.

Hope to see you there.

Bonnie Bacica

Publicity Coordinator

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/>

The Ecole Mill Bay's plant sale

Ecostravaganza on June 4th at Ecole Mill Bay from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

www.Ecostravaganza.ca

Please contact:

Berle or Diane at 250-743-0622 or thebarn32@shaw.ca

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.

WE CANNOT HAVE A GOOD SALE WITHOUT A WIDE SELECTION OF PLANTS. LAST YEAR OUR PROFIT WAS ONLY \$841.55 WHICH IS THE LOWEST AMOUNT THAT WE HAVE MADE SINCE 2005. THIS WAS MAINLY BECAUSE WE DID NOT HAVE AS MANY PLANTS TO SELL.

I AM, THEREFORE, 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 - 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.

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.

Cowichan Valley Garden Club
Annual Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale
Saturday May 14, 2011 - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall
5800 Church Road (off Maple Bay Road)
Duncan, BC.

Admission: Adults/Seniors: \$2.00, Children: \$1.00
Admission to Afternoon Tea: Adults/Seniors: \$3.00, Children: \$2.00
Flower Show Entries from the public welcome.
Please email Diane McAmmond to enter diane@skirrow.org

Special Freebies for First 100



Customers

Giant Rhododendron and Plant Sale- Cowichan Garden Fair

Saturday April 30, 2011

10 am - 2 pm

***Cowichan Exhibition Main Hall
Duncan***

- Doors open at 10 am sharp until 2 pm-no entry fees
- Come early for best selection
- Truss (flower) display of local rhodos in bloom
- Demonstrations and presentations
- More than 3000 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 and garden experts**
- **Gardening Demonstrations and valuable advice**
- **Unique and interesting vendors and garden suppliers**
- **Free Coffee and Donuts for first 200 customers**

Thanks to our Gold Sponsors- SeaSoil and Island Tractor

GROW FOOD NETWORK

Grow Food is launching a NEW on-line Magazine called Grow Food Network, for People Who Love to Grow Food. We want to connect people with one another, food growing opportunities, resources and information all pertaining to growing food in your garden.

Each issue will contain articles and tips around growing food, as well as sections for you to advertise your services, needs, items for sale, items to trade or borrow.

If you have a yard where someone can grow food and share the bounty with you, there's a place for that. If you would like to find a garden buddy to work together on each other's garden, fill in that section.

This Magazine is for you. If you can see an area that I've missed, please include it in the suggestions section.

The first edition will be FREE! If you are getting this email, you will receive the first edition, but it will only be as good as the amount of involvement you put into it. So Let's make this GREAT...(deadline for entry, Tuesday April 19th)

SECTIONS INCLUDED (examples)

FOR SALE: Starting Tuesday April 19, 26th and May 3rd Organic Gardening 3 Part Course "Grow Food with JOY" How Can I Use Perma-Culture in my Back yard. Held at the Sunflower Café in Duncan BC
 Cost: \$50.00 for all 3 classes,. Contact
 <javascript:main.compose('new',%20't=growfood@shaw.ca')> growfood@shaw.ca or call 250-743-1352 for more info.

FOR HIRE: I ride my bike everywhere, and I have use of a 4 foot trailer to move tools and things for gardening. I can ride to Ladysmith to the north, and Mill Bay to the south. I charge \$12 dollars/hour for general gardening, such as pruning, weeding, planting of seeds, picking of fruit, and watering
 Contact: Michael

michaelsuds@gmail.com

<javascript:main.compose('new',%20't=michaelsuds@gmail.com')>

Grow Food Edible Garden

Designs, Available for on-site consultations offering quick drawings and planting suggestions. \$50.00 per visit plus travelling expenses. Contact <javascript:main.compose('new',%20't=growfood@shaw.ca')> growfood@shaw.ca or call Joy at 250-743-1352

WANT TO BUY: List the amount you wish to spend
LAND AVAILABLE TO SHARE: Farm in Cobble Hill wanting to share garden space for trade for veggies

FOOD GROWER SEEKS LAND: Indicate geographical area desired most and level of gardening experience.

EVENTS: Earth Day Celebration, Saturday
April 23, Charles Hoey Park, Duncan, BC 10am - 3 pm. First Annual Edible Perennial Plant Exchange. Find Grow Food at this event to share plants

PERSONAL COLUMN: Female Food Grower seeks Male Food Grower.

MENTOR/TEACHER AVAILABLE FOR TRADE:
If you are knowledgeable about growing food and need help in your garden, consider being a mentor to a willing participant or if you want to be that willing participant to learn more, list the area you want to work in.

GARDEN BUDDY WANTED: Include the geographical area you would like to share garden chores with someone who wishes to do the same.

WANTED: Want to borrow a raccoon trap.
Contact Joy at <javascript:main.compose('new',%20't=growfood@shaw.ca')> growfood@shaw.ca or call 250-743-1352

OTHER: House for Rent with garden to grow food.

SUGGESTIONS: What this magazine needs is.

Please use the appropriate heading and email me your requests. Thanks for your time and I hope you will enjoy receiving this Magazine.

Joy Story

Grow Food Network

Useful Gardening information that I'd like to pass along

I came across a couple of things that I think might be quite useful to some of those of us out there who are interested in growing food for markets, or just ourselves and need to keep track of our own gardens and everything that goes along with that including seed stashes and plantings.

Tad and I came across this fellow's site because of an article we saw in "Small Farm Canada Magazine, the March/April 2011 issue", (see blurb and his websites below), about the program that he has created (his day job is in IT) which allows you to enter all the variables into the program and it will project sales, forecast and print reports for your market garden.

Design it & they will come

By Colleen Kimmett Software engineer turned market gardener develops unique (and free!) computer program

<http://www.thefreshveggies.com/>

<http://westbarnveggies.com/about.html>

This is a site that offers help for farmers just starting out - they give out grants etc to help young farmers get going, not really checked it out yet - it does say it's for all of Canada, but not sure what the ratio of support would be for the west coast, rather than Ontario given it's larger population - but worth looking at.

<http://www.farmstart.ca/>

This is a site that explains how important it is to feed the soil and that you need to build the soil organically so that the organisms & beneficial bacteria below the surface do a lot of the work for you and make your food products grow larger and healthier. Featuring Dr. Eileen Ingham, of Soil Foodweb, Inc.

http://soilfoodweb.ca/about_us.html

This is a site that has a multitude of e-books, some that are very old and worth looking at - this link is for the gardening section as I was searching for fruit trees and different raspberry cultivar descriptions - we now have three varieties, two red (one ever bearing) and a fall gold, that being said - you can search for whatever subject matter interests you.

<http://chestofbooks.com/gardening-horticulture/Robert-Hogg/The-Fruit-Manual-Descriptions-and-Synonymes/index.html>

This is a site about the Mother Earth News Organic Gardening Fair that will be in Puyallup, Wa on the weekend of June 4th-5th that Tad and I are planning on attending - anyone interested in carpooling??

NOTE: Joel Salatin of Polyface Farm (<http://www.polyfacefarms.com/>) will be one of the speakers!

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/fair/workshop-puyallup.aspx>

In the Cowichan Valley there is apparently an organization that you can join, with once a month meetings and lots of new or veteran farmers/gardeners attend the meetings so you can swap ideas and information. Perfect for those of us just starting out who maybe want to share resources like tractors or greenhouses etc. Tad and I plan on attending their next meeting.

www.cowichanfarmers.org

This is just a site for finding plants and definitions that I came across:
<http://plantfinder.sunset.com/sunset/plant-home.jsp>

The absolutely best site that I've come across to enter in all your seeds, plantings, meet up with like-minded gardeners and swap seeds, document your garden progress through the year and it also gives you the seed starting dates for your area, transplant dates etc - it's just awesome!! The main version is free, but for added functionality, a minimal cost of \$22.00/year gives you all the functions and for my book is worth it!! I've already traded hard to get heritage tomato seeds from a fellow in the US who is keeping them in his fridge! Did I already say awesome enough :)
<http://myfolia.com/>

Some gardening blogs / sites of friends and others that I've just stumbled upon:

<http://www.stupidgardenplants.com/>

<http://www.westcoastgardener.ca/>

<http://heavypetal.ca/>

<http://www.yougrowgirl.com/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cowvalgardengal/> - see the progress of our gardens as Tad & I build them and get growing!

Last, but not least is the attachment that I've included about Vermiculture - that is worm composting as it can be done anywhere, is odorless and makes great compost tea as well as rich compost for your garden.

Tad and I are considering getting into large scale vermiculture here at the farm in Cobble Hill - I'm quite interested in this idea as it would give a home to all the food that would otherwise get thrown out from restaurants at the end of the day - not to mention the grocery stores that throw out tons of produce! Better than going to a landfill I say!

Dee Evans (nee Lundgren)
1-250-733-2633

If you would like a copy of the attachment Vermiculture Farmers Manual let me know & I will send it to you. lriddle@shaw.ca

MARKETPLACE

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 MAY 2011 newsletter is MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011 . Loraine Little, Editor
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