

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER



MAY 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 MAY Meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on **Tuesday MAY 24th** (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 **"Merry Month of May"**

2010/2011 MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB CALENDAR

Ajay Oppelaar, Vice-president.

Tuesday May 24th, 2011	Barrie Agar	"Cast iron perennials"
Tuesday June 28th, 2011		Annual General Meeting & Picnic

Upcoming Speaker

Tuesday May 24th: Barrie Agar on "Cast Iron Perennials". Reliable and tough perennials for your garden. Barrie is the head gardener for Royal Roads University/Hatley Castle and comes to us with years of horticultural expertise. It should be a terrific presentation, many of you already know Barrie and her natural good humour.

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE.

JUNE 11, 2011 AT THE FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW.

On behalf of the Garden Club Plant Sale Committee, Ruby Armour, Mary Gale, Margaret Martin, Sharon Martin, Margo Johnston, Ali Morris, Loraine Little, Heather Jenkins, Janis Feurer, Sonia Ottosen, Barb Kohlman and me, I would like to thank those of you who have already provided us with plants and encourage those who are thinking of providing plants to pot them up for the sale. The Committee will be grooming the plants on the afternoon of Friday, June 10 so your plants should be delivered to my place prior to then. I live at 2836 Oceanside Lane, my phone number is 250-743-0965 and the email address is: TheScottRogers@aol.com (mailto:TheScottRogers@aol.com).

We cannot have a good sale without a wide selection of plants. We need your plant donations to ensure that we have a great sale. The money that we make at the plant sale helps the Club to support many worthwhile projects

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

President's Message for May 2011 newsletter

I'm not going to take up valuable space in this newsletter complaining about the cold and very wet spring. It seems to be the talk of every gardener on the wet coast this year. To try and put a good spin on the weather, consider the fact that hostas, Siberian Iris, cranesbill geraniums, delphiniums and other perennials who love cooler, wet weather are really thriving this year. Who needs roses?

Two reminders from last month's newsletter: 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 email Elizabeth Coulter at elizabethcoulter@shaw.ca. If you have some pictures of your garden, we are pleased to add them to the page as well.

Our 64th Annual Community Flower and Garden Show is on 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. Thanks to the volunteers who signed up at April's meeting to help with the set-up,

running and take-down of the show. We need a few more volunteers, particularly for set-up and take-down and we will circulate a list again at the May meeting.

For all our new members, elsewhere in this newsletter is an overview of what happens at our annual AGM and Potluck Picnic. This year the event will be on Tuesday, June 28th at my house and the article will include directions. This event is always very well attended and lots of fun.

Brenda

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

Ack! It's been so cold I STILL have daffodils in bud. It's totally true, Barb Kohlman was even here at my house just today and saw them. Ornamental trees that by now should be done blooming are just now beginning to show some colour. Mother Nature has turned a cold shoulder on us this year.

Some of the things that are looking good so far this year are native plants, especially the evergreen and herbaceous perennials that populate my gardens. Some have been brought back in, some have arrived of their own volition. All these so far are having a banner year.

Dicentra formosa (pacific bleeding heart) is lush and in full bloom throughout my garden, even popping up between the decking out back. Lady fern, shield fern, sword fern and all unfurling fiddle heads and maturing quickly.

Tellima grandiflora (fringe cup) is tall and uniform in height, almost ready to bloom. I've let this one populate the garden at will, in the rockery or in flowerbeds. When this one is finished blooming, don't remove all the spent flower stalks, though it does improve the appearance of the beautiful foliage. Leave on a stalk or two and allow it to self-seed so you'll have new volunteers in the spring next year.

There are two low growing ground covers that I love, one showed up on its own and now covers broad areas of the backyard beds, the other is an interloper from Eastern Canada that deserves a home here too. Northern Star flower made an appearance in the back yard several years ago, and now it's beginning to make its way even to the front yard. It spreads by tiny corms that develop along the root structure so it's slow to get there but worth the wait. Small star shaped flowers of white or palest pink sit atop a whirl of 5 leaves on a short 3-inch stem.

The other is *Cornus Canadensis* or Bunchberry, the ground cover Dogwood. Great for acidic soil in the shade of large conifers, this one spreads like wildfire and creates a carpet of perfectly formed miniature dogwood foliage and blooms in mid spring. When the flower fades, it leaves behind a bright red berry that persists through summer. The whole plant disappears in the fall after a brief but brilliant show of fall colour.

Gaulthera shallon (Salal) and mahonia repens (creeping Oregon grape) are both terrific for naturalizing woodland gardens quickly and are both evergreen and fruiting. Though many people are leery of using Salal in the landscape, it adds evergreen colour and is easy to control by both shearing back in late winter and pulling up any runners that show themselves above the soil.

Native plants are low care, reliably deer proof and don't usually need additional watering, making them perfect for all gardens in the Cowichan Valley.

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE



SATURDAY, JUNE 11 AT THE COMMUNITY FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW.

A great selection of plants provided by members of the Mill Bay Garden Club. Master Gardeners from the Victoria Master Gardener Association will be sitting right next door to the plant sale booth to provide general gardening questions and advice.

There will be a wide selection of plants available at a very reasonable cost. This is always a popular booth at the Community Flower and Garden Show as it provides a wonderful opportunity for new and experienced gardeners to add interesting plant material to their gardens.

Note that the times have changed from earlier years. The plant sale will be from 9am - 2pm. Visit our booth for a lively gardening conversation, great advice and wonderful plants.

AGM/ POTLUCK PICNIC

-  Times are as follows: Please plan to arrive around 5:30 p.m. we will serve the potluck for 6:30 p.m. and we'll start the AGM for 7:15 p.m. AGM should be finished no later than 7:45 p.m. and the picnic will continue after that.
-  The AGM/Potluck Picnic will be held at Bill and Brenda Dumont's house, 1753 Peerless Road in Cobble Hill. If travelling south on Shawnigan Lake Road, turn one long block past the intersection of Cameron Taggart Road and Shawnigan Lake Road and then left onto Filgate Road. Go one long block down Filgate Road and turn right onto Peerless Road. If travelling north on Shawnigan Lake Road, turn right onto Filgate Road (about a mile past the Black Swan pub) down Filgate Rd one block and then right onto Peerless Road.

- ✚ Please park outside the gate. Those who can't walk far and those dropping off supplies can come right in, drop off and then park outside. The driveway isn't too long, but we don't want anyone lugging heavy objects.
 - ✚ We are borrowing tables, but with our increased numbers we are asking everyone if you have a banquet table or something similar to please bring it along. Bring chairs for yourself and partner (did I mention that partners are most welcome?? They are, but they can't vote), bring a potluck dish, glasses, cups, (we provide tea and coffee), cutlery and any liquid you'd like to consume. If you are bringing your own table, you may want to include a tablecloth and everyone should bring napkins for yourself. As mentioned, we'll have tables with tableclothes but I'm certain we'll need more than we can provide.
 - ✚ You may hear that some of us wear garden hats. We do, but plenty of people don't. The hats can be sensible garden hats, goofy ones, flamboyant ones, well – you get the picture.
 - ✚ We always have a special raffle.
 - ✚ This hasn't actually happened in recent memory but if it is absolutely pouring rain at 5:00 p.m. then we will cancel the AGM/Picnic. Cloudy, even cool, is just fine, but a complete downpour will cancel the event and we'll re-schedule sometime during the summer. The Flower Show owns tents, but only two.....
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Summer garden tour series

We now have four gardens signed up for tours this summer. The dates of the tours have not been finalized, but we will have the gardens of Elaine Scott and Barb Kohlman scheduled on the same day. Heather Gibbins and Ajay Oppelaar will open their gardens together on one day as well since they are literally a stones throw away from each other.

Even though our club has recently toured Barb and Ajay's gardens, the members of the Cowichan Valley club have not seen any of our gardens. They also have four gardens signed up so far and when they have more of a schedule, we can let our members know the dates and addresses.

If you would like to allow the clubs to tour your garden, please get in touch with Ajay. We don't need to see a pristine garden, just one that shows how you utilize your space and how you live in your own environment.

Secretary – Elizabeth Coulter
elizabethcoulter@shaw.ca

GENERAL MEETING, MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB
Tuesday, April 26, 2011
MINUTES

Welcome

Moved by Bill Herring
Seconded by Dot Garbett
That the minutes of March 11th be adopted as circulated.

President's Report – Brenda Dumont

Flower Show – sign-up sheet for volunteers for the Flower Show is circulated tonight. Times for set-up on Friday is changed from other years and judging will be done on Friday night. Please consider helping out as we will need cashiers, ticket takers, people to help set up and take down.

Moved and Seconded by Club Executive

That the monthly financial report will be heard verbally from the Treasurer at each general meeting and the AGM but will no longer appear in the newsletter. No mention of the balances are to be included in the general meeting minutes. Any member wishing detailed financial information may, in writing, make a request of such information to the treasurer. Carried.

All Upcoming Events throughout Vancouver Island are displayed next to the Treasurer. During the coffee break, please check out all the activities.

Nominating Committee – Elaine Scott introduction of the committee and appeal for volunteers for Vice President, Newsletter Editor, and Flower and Garden Show Chairperson

Vice-President's Report – Ajay Oppelaar

- ✚ Tonight's speaker: we welcome Bernie Dinter, who will speak on "Lawns".
Next month, Barrie Agar from Royal Roads/Hatley Castle "Cast Iron Perennials"
September: "Ornamental grasses" with Patti Brown
October Gordon MacKay: "Rock Garden Plants"
- ✚ Garden Tours – Elaine has volunteered to open her garden and we hope others will step up and offer their gardens.

Treasurer's Report – Gale McIntyre

Library – Janice Rose

New books such as "Designer Plants Combinations", and newly-donated gardening magazines are available for members to check-out.

Dustin presented two books on Mushroom growing, including one on mushroom identification, plus a DVD.

He also had some mushroom handouts for the library.

All books MUST be returned at the May meeting.

Kitchen – please let us know if you do not check your emails;

Membership – 2 new members tonight; our total now is close to 180.

Historian – Mary read a quote from the minutes of April 11 1985, in which the Brag Table was instituted. Please let Mary know if any member is ill as she sends out cards.

MBGC Plant Sale

Elaine Scott appealed to Club Members to support our Club plant sale at the Flower Show. This is our main fund-raiser and supports our donations to community charitable groups. Please contribute plants from your garden and call Elaine if you need any help preparing or transporting your plants.

Dustin reported on his mushroom workshop and thanked everyone for their help
He plans workshops in the future on Bee Keeping for pollination and on Worm Farming or Verma-Culture for Composting

How to exhibit at a Flower Show – Dot Garbet

Four “Judging Standards” books are in our Club Library: have a look at them if you are entering.

Plants with hard stems: a day ahead, split the end of the stem to allow water to be absorbed more easily

A branch – self explanatory

A spray – is a smaller branch with several trusses; should be just opening and all as identical as possible;

A truss – a compact cluster of flowers growing from one stem on the branch (ie rhodos)

Your entry must be cleaned with damaged leaves removed; remove any damaged or imperfect flowers;

Cut the day before, soak in pail of water and re-cut and put in fresh warm or cool water on the day; warm water will encourage blooms to open.

Brag Table – “Spring Splendor” – Barb Kohlman

Flowering currant comes in pink and white as well as the usual red and should be in every garden.

Also Pieris (or Lily of the Valley shrub) is highly recommended;

Pulmonaria Diana Clare is a quickly clumping variety, has deep blue blooms and silver foliage.

Primroses and fritillarias are easy to grow and sweet.

Coffee, Tea

Raffle – Joan Cawker

Joan and Jim provided many raffle prizes including interesting plants, bulbs, and containers.

Congratulations to all those who won!

Question and Answer Period – Bill Herring answered several questions from the members re: soil amendment, recommending soil testing before adding lime.

Guest Speaker – Bernie Dinter gave a very informative talk on lawn building and care.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm.

OUR WEBSITE

We are continually working to improve and update the Club website and would appreciate pictures of events or of members' gardens which we could include.

If you have pictures, please write a short blurb (where, when they were taken) about them and send them to photos@millbaygardenclub.com

Be sure to check with individuals who are in the pictures so that we have their permission to put them on the web!

Thank you, Check out our website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Elizabeth

Kitchen Report - Arlene Dench jaden2@shaw.ca

The following 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, Anne Gupton, David & Deanna Hewson, Penny Jones, Karen Kennedy, Marg Martin, Sharon Martin, Cynthia Miranda and Monika Morgan.**

The following will be responsible for setting up for the Annual General Meeting picnic on June the 28th. The members of this team are: **Cecile & Gordon Healy, Chris & Dee Harvey, Bonnie & Mike Mills, Tracey Morris, Linda Nelson, Sharon Nivens and Lynda Norton.**

Library Report – Janice Rose aretiredrose@gmail.com

At the May meeting books may be taken out and borrowed for the summer months. Please make sure they are returned at the September meeting so other members may enjoy them at that time.

Thanks so much, Janice Roser

Did you know that....

Perennial Ridge Farms

5605 Jordans Lane,
Duncan, BC, V9L 6J1
Ph. / Fax. 250-748-0098

Spring Plant Sale

May 27, 28, and 29 2011

Friday, Saturday, Sunday

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Hello Perennial Gardeners!!!

Well, I'm not really sure what to make of this spring!?!?!? We have had our share of rain, and cool temperatures, and when the sun comes out and gives us that warmth, ohhhhh, can you ever soak it up and appreciate it !!! The perennials that tend to love cooler weather with good drenches of rain, are looking lush as ever. The perennials that need more heat are struggling some what, but they will have a good start for a dry summer season with this ample moisture. On the whole, the bloomin' plants (!!!) here on the farm are about 3 to 6 weeks late in flower, but its all good in the end result, we still see the blossoms, and very much appreciate them.

We are looking forward to our sale this year, having a visit with everyone that we may not see thru the rest of the growing season, and to share garden stories!! We have a new addition to the farm, just arrived less than a week ago.....Star and Poppy, two young kid does (goats), very friendly, one still being bottle fed, so its really like having kids again!!! (Yes, they are contained in a large Fort Knox, if you are worried!) We have a nice selection of deciduous trees (maples, oaks, and many unusual trees in stock), shrubs, rhodos and deciduous azaleas (lots of these in bloom), perennials, succulents and berry bushes. Something for everyone!!!!

We will be offering specials on certain perennials. We have a huge selection of hostas in 1 gal pots, ready to get their roots in the ground. We have a wide choice of 1 gal and 2 gal rhodos. Lilies in pots, again will be ready to go!

To find Perennial Ridge Farms, follow (Old) Cowichan Lake Rd. for 7 km from the Tansor Service Station, heading west. Follow the bright green signs, till you come to Jordans Lane on your left.

Recycle, Reuse and Reduce!

Any unwanted used 1 gal., 2 gal., or larger pots will be gladly accepted!

We look foward to seeing you the last weekend in May!!!!

The View Royal Garden Club had Dr. Bill McMillan as speaker from Glendale Gardens at their last monthly meeting. I have an email of notes for the Cultivation & Pruning of Rhododendrons & Azaleas if anyone wants a copy please let me know at lriddle@shaw.ca

The View Royal Garden Club will hold its general meeting on Wednesday May 25, 2011 at 7:30pm in the Shoreline Community School, 2750 Shoreline Drive.

The speaker for this meeting will be Robin Hopper, a potter, teacher, consultant and garden designer. His presentation is entitled "Gardening Above Your Head", a talk on

Vines and Climbers. As well there will be a sales table with plants and garden items. Visitors and new members are welcome. For further information please call 250-220-5212

Cowichan Valley Garden Tour

Cowichan Valley Garden Tour

A Self guided tour of six outstanding yet diverse gardens in Mill Bay / Duncan area. Gardener columnist Helen Chesnut in attendance at one garden.

Tea and refreshments available.

Sunday, June 5th, 2011

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Tickets: \$18

Ticket locations: Please call 250 748-8281

SOOKE'S SECRET GARDEN TOUR, SPONSORED BY THE SOOKE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

Sunday, June 5, 2011. 10am - 5pm (Rain or Shine)

A wonderful blend of ornamental, oceanfront and view gardens. Creative water features and garden structures provide interesting and contrasting elements that share the focus with a wide variety of shrubs, trees, perennials, fruits and vegetables.

Bring your camera for spectacular views from many of the gardens. Talk with on-site Master Gardeners - enjoy Music performed by members of the Sooke Philharmonic and others - view Classic Cars - place your bid at the Silent Auction - shop at the Plant Sales - take in one of the garden-related Demonstrations – enjoy Refreshments in selected gardens.

Check sookephil.ca for local B&B's offering special rates.

Self-guided Tour with Detailed Map

Ticket/map: \$20 per person - available May 1st.

(Children 10 and under FREE if accompanied by adult)

Purchase your Ticket/Map/Brochure at the following outlets:

DUNCAN

DINTER NURSERY, Hwy 1. (5 km south of Duncan)

FOR MORE INFORMATION;

Call Sue at 250-642-1397 or 250-642-7323

email bshy@shaw.ca

website sookephil.ca

**Sunday June 12, 2011
10 AM – 4 PM**

Blooms'n Art Garden Tour

Clustered in Chemainus & Saltair

Sponsored by:

Mount Brenton Garden Club

For more information please call (250) 245-2116



VIEW ROYAL GARDEN CLUB ROSE AND PEONY SHOW

JUNE 18, 2011

Shoreline Community School 2750 Shoreline Drive

- Doors will be open for viewing for members and guests at 1:00 pm.
 - ADMISSION \$5.00 (includes Tea and Door Prize Ticket.) Refreshments served from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.
- If anyone is interested in exhibiting please let me know & I will send you the show rules lriddle@shaw.ca**

Gabriola Home and Garden Tour-2012

Home and Garden Tour on Sunday, June 26.

This is a great time to visit this charming island with it's many beautiful gardens, homes and ocean vistas. There are many B&B's in the area, beautiful beaches, and excellent restaurants to make this a special place to visit. We hope to see you there. Tickets are available at www.phc-gabriola.org/garden.html .

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 JUNE 2011 newsletter is **MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011**. Loraine Little, Editor