



October 2011
Volume 1, Issue 2

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Mill Bay Garden Club
1001 Shawnigan Lake/
Mill Bay Rd
Mill Bay Community Centre
At Kerry Park Rec Centre

Mill Bay Garden Club Newsletter

PLANT SALE TABLE

Dividing your perennials? Need more space for other things? Members are reminded to PLEASE save those plants they are moving, dividing, or just want to be rid of! If you have extras, we are looking for donations for the club plant table. The table sells plants and anything garden related including produce, jams and jellies. So if you have divided your perennials and have any spare please bring them along to the next meeting.



NEXT MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, October 25th @7pm

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR MUG
FOR COFFEE OR TEA**

Goodies, coffee and tea are provided
by *Your Donations*

President's Report

Ajay Oppelaar, MBGC President

We had a tremendous turnout for September's meeting. We had 17 new memberships and almost 80 membership renewals. We hope to see even more renewals and new members on **October 25th**. Our budget proposal was approved unanimously by the membership and I want to thank our Treasurer Gale McIntyre and the entire Executive for their time and effort on putting the first ever MBGC budget together.

Thank you also to those who signed up to volunteer for set-up and coffee break requirements. Without your help we cannot continue to hold a social time coffee break during the meetings and many of the volunteer positions for the 2011-2012 season have already been filled. We will circulate the sheets again at our October meeting and hope to have them all filled out by the end of the night. Especially important are volunteers for the Holiday potluck dinner on **December 6th** and the AGM on **June 26th**.

Every club member is entitled to use the Newsletter and Website to promote themselves and advertise their own garden/horticultural services, needs, products, whatever, as long as it is garden related. To advertise in the Newsletter, send an email of your listing to Dee Evans at mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com to place your posting in the "**Market Place**" section.

To place a listing on the website, use the form in the "**Gardeners' Exchange**" page and submit. It's easy and free at www.millbaygardenclub.com

The annual Community Flower and Garden Show is gearing up to begin planning sessions and can always use your help. Please contact this years' Show Chair Heather Gibbins at heathergibbins@yahoo.ca and volunteer to help continue this vital and vibrant aspect of our club season and community.

Remember that our Holiday Potluck dinner is Tuesday **December 6th**. The table centerpiece theme will be "**Winter Berries**". The club will provide several giant turkeys

and a big ol' ham. Plan on arriving at **5:30 p.m.** and we'll begin dinner service at **6 p.m.** We ask that you bring your dish fully cooked since the oven at the hall will be used to keep dishes warm until service begins. Please be sure to provide your own plates, cutlery and napkins as well as festive placemats if you like. Also, bring your favourite "non" alcoholic beverage, as the CVRD won't allow us to BYOB any longer without an event liquor license. No problem though, last years dinner was just as much fun without wine as it was before. We will provide a delicious punch prepared by Barb Kohlman and of course coffee and tea (bring your own cup as always for any beverage).

Lastly, the Executive would like to recognize and thank long time club member and Master Gardener Pip Woodcock. Pip has volunteered to be the "**Garden Club News**" voice in the South Cowichan Life published by Cowichan Press and mailed to all Mill Bay residents each month. We are all grateful and hope you enjoy your new endeavor Pip!

Upcoming Speaker Schedule

October 2011 Mtg:

Tuesday, October 25th

Gordon McKay from Alba Plants on "Gems for the Rock Garden".

Nov/December 2011 Mtg:

Tuesday, December 6th

Santa – It's our club Christmas party!

January 2012 Mtg:

Tuesday, January 24th

TBA

February 2012 Mtg:

Tuesday, February 28th

Bill Herring will speak on vegetable growing, and answer questions about veggies.



Welcome to New Members

MBGC would like to wish a warm welcome to our newest Members to the club this month.

John & Joanna Blaszczyk, Arlene Charette, Pamela Clarke, Kerry Davis, Janette Ererhard & Alexander Moll, Barbara & Bernie Juurlink, Addy LaVigne, Janet Pothoria, Karen Salewicz, Carmen J. Stanek, Donna Trueit, and finally but not least Val & Steve Warnes..

CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE!

Please Remember that during the Months of September and **October** 2011, that your membership renewal fees are due to be paid for the new club year which runs from Sept 2011 to June 2012.

The annual membership fees are \$10.00 per person.

If you have been a visitor to the club, and now wish to sign up you can find the Membership forms are available at the meetings or online on the club website at:

http://www.millbaygardenclub.com/about_us

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date: October 25th, 2011
Time: 7pm
Location: Shawnigan Mill Bay Community Hall
Topic: Gems for the Rock Garden
Speaker: Gordon McKay, Alba Plants

Date: December 6th, 2011
Time: 7pm
Location: Shawnigan Mill Bay Community Hall
Event: Christmas Dinner
Speaker: Santa Claus

Date: January 24th, 2012
Time: 7pm
Location: Shawnigan Mill Bay Community Hall
Topic: TBA
Speaker: TBA

Date: February 28th, 2012
Time: 7pm
Location: Shawnigan Mill Bay Community Hall
Topic: Veggie Gardening
Speaker: Bill Herring

Date: October 23rd, 2011
Time: 10:30am - 4pm
Location: Parksville Community Centre
Topic: Creating a Permaculture Garden
Speaker: Ron Berezan

Date: October 29th, 2011
November 5th & 12th
Time: 10:00am or 1pm
Location: Russell Nursery
Topic: Dormant Season Pruning of Trees and Shrubs

Notes from the Library

Garden Club members who currently have books signed out are asked to return them at the October meeting. Members who would like to request a book ordered this year for our library are asked to speak to Janice Rose or contact her at aretiredrose@gmail.com

Gardening Tips

Barb Kohlman

Now that we have some cool weather, the ground has also cooled - so good time to mulch your flowerbeds for the winter with leaves (shredded by the lawnmower).

Bring in any tender plants to the garage or unheated greenhouse to protect them from the winter cold and from the winter rains.

Hostas can be cleared now to help discourage slugs.



Bulbs will be plentiful in the nurseries - plant now for wonderful spring satisfaction.

Note that hybrid tulips only bloom strongly for about 2 years (that is the way they are genetically programmed) so replace them regularly. Add a native plant to your garden!!! My favourite evergreen shrub is *Vaccinium ovatum* (Evergreen huckleberry) for 4-season interest-lovely bronze shade in new leaves in spring, bell-shaped flowers in early summer, berries in fall and great evergreen foliage for the winter. Seems disease resistant and the deer have left it alone.

October's Brag Table

The theme for our October 25th meeting's Brag Table is "Bewitched".

With plant and flower identification and commentary provided by Past President Barb Kohlman, the Brag Table is a great part of our monthly meetings. It's a fun and interactive way to share what's going on in your garden without having 170 club members trying to find parking outside of your house. The bonus is a prize awarded randomly to one of the monthly participants in this program. If you've never participated, give it a fling, be it flower, vegetable or fungus.

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Date: October 31st, 2011
Time: 8am
Location: 2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose
Topic: Creating a Crevice Garden - a crevice garden will be constructed at Esywn's Alpine & Rock Garden at Nanoose Place

Date: Nov 24th, 2011
Time: 7pm
Location: Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney, and BC
Topic: "Cool Green Living"
Speaker: Jim Cole

Date: January – Oct 2012
Time: All Day Course
Location: Saltspring Island
Topic: 2012 Year Around Harvest: Organic Gardening on the Coast
Speaker: Linda Gilkeson
See Page 9 for details

Date: Various
Time: Various
Location: Horticulture Centre of the Pacific
Topic: Workshops
Speaker: Various
See Page 10 for details

Date: October 22nd, 2011
Time: 2-4pm
Location: Compost Education Centre, Victoria, BC
Topic: Grow the Best Garlic

Date: October 22nd, 2011
Time: 10-12pm (Noon)
Location: City of Victoria Parks Yard, Victoria, BC
Beacon Hill Pk
Ph: 250-361-0732.
Topic: "Winter Container Gardening"

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Ajay Oppelaar.....	President	743-6551	arkengardens@gmail.com
Cliff Stainsby.....	Vice President	743-7483	cliffas@shaw.ca
Gale McIntyre	Treasurer.....	743-9342	zonagale@shyaw.ca
Arlene Dench.....	Secretary	743-5644.....	jaden2@shaw.ca
Barb Kohlman	Past President.....	743-4485.....	barbkohlman@shaw.ca
Dee Evans.....	Newsletter	510-6848.....	mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com
Diane Regan	Kitchen	743-7314.....	di_regan@hotmail.com
Mary Gale.....	Historian	743-9329	no email
Heather Gibbins.....	Membership.....	743-0424.....	heathergibbins@yahoo.ca
Janice Rose	Library.....	743-5897	aretiredrose@gmail.com
Joan Cawker.....	Raffle	715-1904.....	jwmj@shaw.ca
Heather Jenkins.....	Plant Sales	733-2268.....	fishface1@gmail.com
Elizabeth Coulter	Website	743-2117.....	elizabethcoulter@shaw.ca

Club Kitchen Duties:

Please check to see if you are scheduled to bring anything for the next meeting to serve at the coffee break

1 Litre of 2% Milk:

Carmen Stanrk
Dawn Lyon

Cookies / Goodies:

Marie Cooke
Joan Nott
Sharon Petterson
Pauline Dueck
Dawn Lyon
John Cassells

Kitchen Helpers:

Val Warnes
Penny Jones
John Cassells

Set-up & Clean-up:

Susan Petersen
John Cassells
Barb Kohlman
Joy Story

STANDBY: Valerie Robinson



QUALICUM BEACH GARDEN CLUB

www.qualicumbeachgardenclub.wordpress.com

October 31st - CREVICE GARDEN WORKSHOP

On Monday October 31/11, starting at 8 a.m., a crevice garden will be constructed at Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden at Nanoose Place, 2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose. This is planned as a full day participation workshop.

The workshop leader is Paul Spriggs, owner and operator of Spriggs Gardens of Victoria B.C. Paul's expertise with Crevice Gardens comes from training in the Czech Republic with world experts and putting this knowledge and experience into practice, creating many Crevice Gardens including one at the VIRAGS Garden in Beacon Hill Park and several at his home garden in Victoria where last spring he invited the Alpine and Rock Garden special interest group, which supports Eswyn's Alpine & Rock Garden at Nanoose Place, to visit.

A core group of the Alpine and Rock Garden special interest group will be active workshop participants.

We also welcome workshop participants--some who will come to watch and listen and some who will come prepared to work--mixing soil/sand, passing rocks, placing rocks as instructed etc. We will start at 8 a.m. and work until the task is complete. We will have access to a room at Nanoose Place for coffee/tea and a place to have our brought lunches--and perhaps get out of the weather.

You are welcome to come and see the work being done. We will have a donation box to help cover some workshop expenses. There will be a door prize too.

A DELUXE ENGLISH GARDEN TOUR

If you are interested in more details you can email Liz Higgins with any questions you may have or find out more information by going the website at www.cruiseplus.ca and clicking on the Exclusive Pkgs tab.

Elizabeth Higgins, Package Coordinator/RBC Insurance Advisor - CruisePlus Management Ltd., TF: [1-800-854-9664](tel:1-800-854-9664) T: [250-390-0220](tel:250-390-0220)

9 Night Luxury English Garden Tour

Join your CruisePlus Host, Liz Higgins on this exclusive Luxury Garden Tour May 23 - June 2, 2012

This fully hosted tour will take you through many of the spectacular gardens of Southern England.

Start off with 4 nights in Central London and enjoy the history and grandeur of England's capital city while traveling each day to visit 4 fabulous gardens in the surrounding area - plus don't forget the world famous Chelsea Flower Show!

Then travel by train to the beautiful county of Cornwall for an additional 4 day stay. Wind down a little and relax while we visit 5 more unique gardens plus enjoy some sightseeing in the West Country.

Barbara Samarin, President of the Mid-Island Rose Society will also be joining our group and each garden on this tour has been specifically chosen by Barbara and Liz to create an exciting and memorable vacation. We look forward to showing you around these amazing gardens.

Alderlea Farm - Harvest Box Sign-up










Starts the second week of November!

\$100.00 for six weeks

The size of the box will be between the individual and small family share. This will secure you a harvest box for six weeks. Please drop off your payment at the café, or you can pay with your credit card on our website.

John & Katy
johnkaty@shaw.ca
3390 Glenora Rd
Duncan, V9L-6S1
250-715-0799
250-510-FOOD

6 weeks of delicious harvest veggies.
The selection includes:

-  Potatoes
-  Carrots
-  Leeks
-  Apples
-  Beets
-  Cabbage
-  Winter squash
-  Garlic
-  Mixed greens

FROM THE VICTORIA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION AND THE HORTICULTURE CENTRE OF THE PACIFIC



STUDY TO BE A MASTER GARDENER,
HAVE FUN WHILE DOING SO!!

THE NEXT MASTER GARDENER COURSE BEGINS AT THE
HORTICULTURE CENTRE OF THE PACIFIC ON JANUARY 19, 2011.

THE CLASSES WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAYS (6-9 PM) AND
SUNDAYS (9-NOON) BETWEEN JANUARY AND MAY.

THE COST FOR THE ENTIRE COURSE, INCLUDING REQUIRED TEXT, IS \$770. AN
INFORMATION SESSION WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15 AT 7 PM AT THE
HORTICULTURE CENTRE.

PHONE [250-479-6162](tel:250-479-6162) TO SECURE A PLACE ON THE INTEREST LIST.
TALK TO BARB KOHLMAN ([250-743-4485](tel:250-743-4485)) OR ELAINE SCOTT ([250-743-0965](tel:250-743-0965)) IF YOU
WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION

SaltSpring Island Garden Club

Workshop with Linda Gilkeson

2012 Year Around Harvest: Organic Gardening on the Coast

This 10-month series of classes will take you through an entire gardening year from planning the garden and preparing the soil to successful harvests all year round. You will learn low maintenance methods for growing a wide variety of vegetables and fruit, how to manage pests and disease, simple seed saving and food preserving.

The course is based on Linda's Gilkeson's recent book: **Backyard Bounty: A Complete Guide to Year-Round Organic Gardening in the Pacific Northwest.**

The course is open to Garden Club members, the cost is **\$180.**

To register and for additional information contact Susan Dann at 250-537-8895 or via email susandann@shaw.ca

Course Details and Outline
10 sessions January to October 2012 Thursday evenings, 7-9:30 pm, Farmers' Institute, Rainbow Rd, Saltspring Island.
(NOTE: the September 5th class is a Wednesday 7-9:30 pm)

#1. January 19: Garden Plans and Seed Starting

Garden location, sun and water requirements; bed design. Planning the garden for year-around harvest; crop rotation starting seeds, timing spring planting.

#2. February 9: Soil, Nutrients and Amendments

Soil types, liming and soil testing, Organic amendments, making compost. Cultivation methods.

#3. March 8: The Spring Garden

Transplanting, hardening off, cold protection. How to grow cabbage and onion family crops, lettuce and greens, carrots and other roots.

#4. April 12: Containers, Small Gardens, Greenhouses

Growing food in containers (including citrus & sweet potatoes), greenhouses and tunnels. Intensive planting methods that produce the most in the smallest space.

#5. May 10: The Summer Garden

Summer pruning & fruit thinning; summer seeding methods; trellising, mulching,

watering. How to grow tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, corn, beans, squash, cucumbers.

#6. June 7: Insects, Weeds and Diseases

Preventing pest and disease problems; identifying common problems; natural control methods and easy weed management. How to attract beneficial insects.

#7. July 5: Planting for Winter & Basic Seed Saving

When to plant for successful winter crops, Fitting crops into the summer garden. Pollination basics; easy seed saving methods for common crops.

#8. August 9: Preserving the Harvest

Curing and storing onions, winter squash, potatoes, sweet potatoes. Storing tree fruit. Simple food preservation methods (freezing, dehydrating, canning).

#9. September 5: Fruit Trees and Bushes

Note: this session is held on a WEDNESDAY
Choosing, planting and growing fruit trees, grapes, berries. Basic pruning methods for winter.

#10. October 4: Preparing for Winter and Review

Cloches, cold frames and winter covers; mulching & staking. Managing greenhouse & containers in winter. Review of the 12-month garden. ~~SOON~~



Naturescaping your Garden

Saturday Oct. 22nd 1:30–4:30
Birds, bees & frogs- oh my! Come join local ecologist & invasive species specialist **Marion McCoy**

and learn how to attract wildlife & biodiversity to your garden. Naturescaping is a way of gardening that provides animals with habitat for resting, nesting & food as they travel across the landscape. This interactive workshop will include lots of photos, hand-outs and a walk through the Gardens at HCP. Participants are encouraged to bring photos, questions, and a plant list of their current garden.

HCP Members \$25.00 Non-HCP Members \$35.00

Make a Twig Chair

Saturday & Sunday 9:30-4 - October 29th & 30^h
The Artful Bodger, **Bill Simpson** will supply all the materials, teach you how & send you home with a classic twig chair. You'll learn what material to use, how to prepare it & construction techniques that can be applied to all manner of things! The cost is per chair so build one with a partner. For pictures go to www.artfulbodger.ca

HCP Members \$260.00 Non-HCP \$360.00
Including all tools & materials

Wicker Basket with Nature's Bounty

November 5th or 6th 9:30 - 5:00
Explore the exciting design possibilities of the wicker basketry technique with **Joan Carrigan**. In the process of weaving this basket, participants will learn control of shaping as well as a variety of weaving patterns. The emphasis will be on using an assortment of natural materials found in the garden or in the wild with colourful dyed reed. The rich variety of materials makes for a fun and creative experience.

HCP Members \$100.00 Non-HCP Members \$140.00 All material included

One Mile Floral Arranging

Saturday October 23rd 1pm–4pm
Floral designer **Anne Bowen** will open your eyes to the bounty of the roadside & your own backyard and will guide the creation of stunning floral arrangements out of the less obvious. She will introduce you to the elements of design: balance, perspective, proportion, focus, colour & texture and you will learn how to make a free

standing arrangement in your own vase & a container arrangement using oasis. Both breathtaking creations will be made using botanicals harvested from the Gardens at HCP.

Please bring one small to medium size vase, small secateurs or sharp scissors - we will supply the rest.

HCP Members \$50.00 incl. material Non Members \$75.00 incl. material

An Introduction to Dwarf Conifers

Saturday Nov. 5th 1-4
This workshop will cover some of the very best dwarf conifers for containers & rock gardens & will explain some of the myths & magic of this wonderfully versatile group of plants. The focus will be on the dwarf and miniature conifers. We will look at how to use them to best effect in the garden and look into their care and maintenance. Some conifer gems will be available for sale too. All from a self proclaimed dwarf conifer nut **Gordon Mackay!**

HCP Members \$25.00 Non-HCP Members \$35.00

Swags & Door Sprays

Saturday, December 3rd 1pm-4pm or
Sunday December 4th 1pm-4pm
Floral designer **Anne Bowen** will help you take full advantage the bounty of the Gardens & send you home with creations to turn your front door, entry way or mantle into the envy of the neighbourhood. Anne will also demonstrate techniques to you're your existing outdoor containers into holiday decorations.

HCP Members \$40.00 plus material Non Members \$50.00 plus material

Holiday Wreath Making

Friday Nov. 25th 9:30 -12:30
Saturday Nov. 26th · 9-12 or 1:30-4:30
Sunday Nov. 27th 1-4

Using a tremendous variety of greens, you'll learn the techniques of wreath making and take home the finished product. **Lynda Dowling** will teach you all the tricks for an imaginative & unique decoration.

HCP Members \$35.00 incl. material Non Members \$45.00 incl. material

PENINSULA GARDEN CLUB

14 November 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

MARY WINSPEAR CENTRE

Sidney

Special Guest Speaker
Jim Hole
Co-owner of the Enjoy Centre
St. Albert, Alberta

A New Concept in Garden Centres

Cool Green Living



Have you ever grown a garden in a truck bed?



Have you ever grown a garden on a roof?

Jim Hole will introduce you to the fun and fascinating world of growing living walls, microgreens, biochar and much more.

Guests \$10