

November/December 2011  
Volume 1, Issue 3

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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 Christmas Potluck Dinner

In celebration of the Holiday season, the MBGC is holding it's annual Holiday Potluck Dinner on Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup>. The dinner takes place instead of regular meetings for November and December.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. to allow you time to set up your table and potluck item. Please be sure to bring a pre-cooked item (the hall oven will be used to keep dishes warm only). The Club will provide a delicious ham with mustard sauces prepared again by Janice Rose (remember the mustard mousse from last year...mmm) and turkeys roasted and carved by Diane Regan and Barb Kohlman. We will also provide a festive Holiday punch, coffee and tea, all by donation of course.

The centerpiece theme is "Winter Berries" and prizes will be awarded to the judges' favourites.

Expect to see a jolly old Elf and a fun game or two in addition to the return of the gift exchange. For the exchange, please bring a wrapped garden related gift valued at no more then \$10.

***Please bring the following items with you for the Potluck Dinner:***

- Plates
  - Cutlery
  - Napkins
  - Cups or Glassware
  - Your fav Non-Alcoholic Bev
  - Food Bank Donation
  - Wrapped Gift for the Exchange
- Optional:***
- Festive Placemat
  - Holiday Décor (candles, garland)
  - Centerpiece



## NEXT MEETING DATE:

**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING ITEMS FROM THE LIST ABOVE SO YOU CAN EAT DINNER!**

# President's Report

*Ajay Oppelaar, MBGC President*

Welcome to all new and returning members of the MBGC. We have 25 new members over the last two months as well as the return of a few past members we've not seen for a while. We hope you will enjoy your association with the club and find it to be an asset as well as an outlet for your ideas and aspirations. I hope all current members will make an effort to welcome each of you and that new associations and friendships are forged.

This will be the final newsletter for 2011 and the business of the club is moving forward nicely. We've dotted our i's and crossed our t's. The only new business we'll have for the new year will be the possibility of a change of venue should we outgrow our current home of many years.

Your Executive Board and Committee have discussed this issue several times over the last few years and we have few options available to us should we start exceeding the capacity of the Community League Hall.

The only venues to choose from are St John's Anglican Church and the Cobble Hill Hall. Both have pluses and minuses and if the time comes we'll hold a vote of the general membership to settle the matter. It would be a big decision and we're better off to keep the decision at bay for as long as we can.

Having said that, the Executive voted at our meeting on November 8th to table discussions on the topic until a time comes when we have truly exceeded the capacity at Kerry Park. Could be soon, could be never. Time will tell.

Thanks to all who signed up for the Kitchen and set-up/breakdown lists and to Diane Regan and Heather Gibbins for making sure it all happens on meeting nights. There are only a few open spots left to fill, mostly for the AGM.

To Cori-Lee Fisher, thanks again for the tree's you've offered to fellow club members. If anybody is interested in scheduling a digging party at the Fisher home, contact me and I'll get Cori-Lee's contact information to you.

I know Monika Morgan and her husband David made great use of this terrific resource.

Happy Holidays to you all and I hope to see you all at the Holiday Potluck on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.

Arken Terrace  
Disney  
Christmas  
Extravaganza!



Once again it's that time of the year. Ajay Oppelaar and Tom Murray along with Heather and Frank Gibbins annually host a month long showing of their favourite Disney Classics, all handcrafted by Tom and Frank.

From little "Nemo" to Disney dogs, to an 8 foot tall "Sully" from Monsters Inc, nearly 50 characters will inhabit the two front yards this year. Viewing will be nightly from 5 p.m. through 9 p.m. beginning November 27<sup>th</sup> and running through December 4<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget your camera!

Directions: from Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road turn South on Deloume Road (between Briarwood and Sylvester) turn right on Gibbs Place, left on Fern Ridge Drive, right on Arken Terrace. Ajay and Tom live on the corner of Arken Terrace and Fern Ridge Drive at 2490 Arken Terrace. Heather and Frank live just up the street on the left before the cul-de-sac at 2471 Arken Terrace.

# Upcoming Speaker Schedule

Cori-Lee Fisher, Gary & Shelley Peters, Dorothy Weir, and Pamela Wilson

## Nov/December 2011 Mtg:

**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Santa – It’s our club Christmas party!

## January 2012 Mtg:

**Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**

Clay Whitney is with the BC Fruit Testers Association and will speak on the importance of preserving Heritage varieties and on pruning.

## February 2012 Mtg:

**Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**

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.

Debbie Craig, Eric Koob,

# RIDE SHARING

We have had many requests from members who require transportation assistance to get to club meetings and events. So far we’ve connected 4 people with rides to meetings and your Executive thought a great way to help those in need would be to include a “Ride-Share” section in the newsletter.

Beginning in January, you will be able to post a request for a ride-share through your Newsletter Editor Dee Evans. For privacy issues, we will not be posting your phone number or exact address if you would like to find a ride. Instead we will post the name of the person requesting a ride, and a general location of their home, i.e. close to Kilmalu and Telegraph Roads. If you can provide a ride for a member and would like to respond to a ride request, we will then provide their phone number to you.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Dee Evans at [mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com) or 250-510-6848 or Ajay Oppelaar at [arkengardens@gmail.com](mailto:arkengardens@gmail.com) or via phone at 250-743-6551.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Date: January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Time: 7pm  
Location: Shawnigan Mill Bay Community Hall  
Topic: Dormant Pruning & Heritage Fruit Trees  
Speaker: Clay Whitney

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

Date: Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, 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

Date: Nov 26<sup>th</sup> – Dec 17<sup>th</sup>  
Time: Courses  
Location: Russell Nursery  
Topic: Wreath Making, & Centerpieces

## Notes from the Library

Christmas came early to the MBGC library this year! We have 16 new books to add to our collection. Many thanks to Dinters for donating 3 books and to Bucknucks Books for trading in 5 of our oldies for some newer ones. We can now boast some new books on installing ponds and pond plants, growing veggies, companion planting for both vegetable and flower gardens, grasses and clematis to name a few. Come and check out the new and exciting collection at our January meeting.

# Gardening Tips

## NOVEMBER IN THE GARDEN

**Cut back and clean up.** Removing spent annuals and vegetable plants from the garden improve your chance of eliminating numerous future pests and diseases that would otherwise survive on that dead plant material.

**Cut back some perennials.** Cutting back perennials now makes the garden look neater and saves time next spring. But leave those with interesting shapes and seed heads for winter interest and to feed and shelter birds.

**Remove spent annuals and seasonal vegetables.** Pull them up, roots and all, and add them to your compost pile, unless there is any sign of disease. Then dispose of them in your garbage.

**Remove weeds and leaf debris.** These are common places for diseases and pests over winter. The less hospitable you can make the garden for winter hardy pests, the fewer problems you'll have come spring.

**Water Your Trees and Shrubs.** Now that the fall rains have begun, we think the soil will be moist. But dig into your garden and you'll find it quite dry. After the long dry summer we had, many trees are stressed and will appreciate a good long drink right now.

**Take pictures and make notes.** As the garden winds down for the season, there is still time to document what was growing there. This is especially helpful for perennials you will be cutting back for the season and spring-flowering bulbs you want to plant. Having a record of what was planted will allow you to avoid injuring dormant perennials and bulbs.

**Winterize containers.** With our crazy winters, you never know whether we will get a hard frost or prolonged cold snap. So move those plants that cannot withstand frost to a greenhouse, garage or basement. For those containers too big to move, keep some bubble wrap handy to wrap around the pot and the plant during particularly cold weather. You don't want to encourage new growth during this time, so don't add fertilizer and keep water to a minimum.

**Do a soil test.** Fall is a great time to find out important information about your soil.

**Amend the soil** with natural organic materials like homemade compost, manure, blood meal, bone meal, seaweed, mulched leaves,



cottonseed meal, or greensand. Organic amendments added in the fall have time to break down into a form that plants can use, in time for spring.

### Question & Answer

**Q:** How do I select and care for my live Christmas tree?

**A:** Choose a healthy tree by checking that there are not a lot of dead or browning needles. A few dried inner needles are o.k. If you gently stroke a branch the needles should be flexible and remain on the tree. You can also lift up the tree a few inches and then let it drop on the cut trunk, checking to make sure that the outer green needles don't fall off.

Once you get the tree home, refresh the trunk by taking one inch off the bottom and immediately place it in water to improve water uptake. This is important if the tree has been cut for 4 hours or longer. Place the tree in a stand that can hold at least 1 gallon of water. You should expect the tree to take up additional water. Water the new tree until water uptake stops.

Always keep the base of the tree in water. If the base dries out, resin will form over the cut end and the tree will not be able to absorb water and will dry out quickly. You will then need to make a new cut. No special water or additives are needed. Research has shown that plain water will keep a tree fresh.

Always unplug your tree at night and check for worn Christmas tree light electrical cords. Miniature lights produce less heat and reduce the drying effect on the tree or chance of fire. Take down the tree before it dries out. Many fresh cut trees, if properly cared for, should last at least five weeks before drying out. Some species keep their moisture longer than others.

*Courtesy of the View Royal Garden Club*

# Mill Bay Garden Club Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2011  
By Arlene Dench

Called to order at 7:01 p.m.  
Minutes from October meeting accepted as read. Moved by Cliff Stainsby, seconded by Heather Gibbins.

Pip Woodstock has volunteered to write South Cowichan Life articles.

Thank you to set up crew, kitchen helpers, cooks. Sign up sheets circulated again. Pam Clark has volunteered to run a 50/50 draw with proceeds to the flower and garden show.

Cori Lee Fisher has trees on her property, which are available to be dug up by garden club members. Please contact her at cori.fisher@telus.net. There is a mixture of ornamental and native 3 year old trees.

Holiday potluck dinner will be next meeting Dec. 6. at 5:30 p.m. Bring a fully cooked dish, oven in kitchen is for warming only. Bring cutlery, plates, tablecloths, etc. and there will be a centerpiece competition. 'Winterberries' is the theme. A prize is awarded. Santa will be here.

More info to follow in Nov/Dec 2011 newsletter. Spouses are welcome to attend with member.

Garden tours for summer – 12 last year. If you want to be included let exec. Know soon, Spring garden, vegetable garden, all welcome.

Need someone to head up committee to look into resuming bus tours. Perhaps in conjunction with Cowichan Valley club. Anyone?

Vice-President's report – nothing to report.

Treasurer's report - Balance is \$2,046.08 and is posted. Order name tags from Gale or do it yourself at Heritage Trophies. Nametags will be ten dollars next year.

Secretary – nothing to report.

Newsletter - Both Nov. and Dec. will be in next month's newsletter. No newsletter in Dec.

Membership - 7 new members are welcomed this evening.

Garden Show report - Heather Gibbins still requires lots of help.

Need outside vendors, inside co ordinator, silent auction (Dot Garbet will co-ordinate but needs helpers). Committee meets once a month starting in January. Flower Show is June 15 and 16. Hall and judges are booked.

Library – lots of books borrowed, four new books on the way. Books borrowed tonight not due back until January. Mary Gale has old books from the library that will go to Bucknucks Books (at Valleyview Mall) will give us a credit for them.

Website – nothing to report

Plant sales – lots of good things donated for sale this evening

Raffle – lots of things tonight including a huge bag of bulbs, vases.

Kitchen – all well tonight

Historian – Cynthia Vernal is unwell and card will be sent. Mary reports that at an Oct. 1985 high school reunion MBGC did flowers for all the events and were given cheque for \$200. 10 years of notes have completely disappeared.

Members forum:

Elaine Scott – info on Young Naturalists club of Cowichan Valley, great organization for children 5-11 years old, planted 160 trees by Quamichan lake, salmon watch, etc.

Brochures on master gardener program and info night on Nov. 15, brochure available.

Joy Story – magazine on line, downloadable, free copy or can be received monthly. Organic gardening classes starting in Nov. teaching simpler and easier ways to garden. Wed. night open discussion “how does does your garden grow?” at Sunflower Café across from train station 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Barb Kohlman – ‘ Bewitched’ Parsnips, pinky winky hydrangea, osmanthus,

huechera, maple half moon, abutilon (needs taking in over winter), burning bush, ornamental grape vine, Osaka zuki, dwarf pampas grass, dogwood tree water sprout from Eddie’s White wonder, calla lily, parsley, kale, calendula, amaranth, ground cherries, tomatilla, artichoke, walking stick cabbage, hosta leaves, giant Himalayan lily, soloman’s seal, shredded umbrella plant, aralia, peonies (leave heads on), chocolate vine , clematis, sea lavender, brunnera (jack frost), vibernum. Thank you everyone.

Q and A. Bill Herring away. Joy will answer questions tonight. Wormy potatoes: wire worm attacks root veg, rust fly attacks carrot, covering carrots will work, late planting helps. Pip’s carrots planted late grew

with garlic and did well. Wire worms are white. Nematodes need to be applied when soil is warm. Garlic grown during WW2 to avoid problem. Nematodes do not over winter. Sold in the spring. Flower buffer between veg and grass can help. Lives in the roots of the grass. Strawberries and yellow onions worked as companion plants. Wire worm is the larva of a beetle.

Need a garden consult? – we can give you names and phone numbers of people who can be hired, Root ginger has been attempted and failed. Does not grow here. Rots.

Tonight’s guest speaker is Gordon MacKay of Alba Plants.

Adjourned: 7:57 p.m.

/ad

## Wireworm

*Elateridae*

**family:** *elateridae*

**species:** *ctenicera destructor*

**common names:** click beetles, wireworms, *c.aeripennis*, *c.lobata*, *limonius canus*, *l.infuscatus*, *l.californicus*

**hosts:** most vegetables, beans, carrots, cole crops, potatoes

**notes:** Minute to medium-sized, with elongate. Somewhat flattened bodies. dark-colored or metallic (in tropics). Antennae filiform or serrate. Prothorax large with pointed posterior angles.

Larvae: long, slim, cylindrical and hard-bodied. Larvae destructive to the roots of vege-tables, cereals, and forage crops



Larvae and Pupa of Wireworm (above)



Corn wireworm, *Melanotus communis* (top); and *Conoderus* spp. (bottom)



Damage to potatoes from Wireworms (above)



Adult Click Beetle (from Wireworm larvae)

**Wireworm  
Elateridae**

There are over 800 species of wireworms in North America, nearly half of which are found across Canada. While most are harmless, several species are serious pests of a wide variety of crops including corn, potatoes, wheat, barley and onions.

**Injury:**

Larvae of pest species feed by boring into seeds and underground portions of plants. Seeds are often hollowed out and seedlings killed. Later in the season they feed on the small roots of host plants, stunting the plant's growth or killing them. Disease organisms often enter plants damaged by wireworms. Tubers such as potatoes are burrowed into, rendering them unmarketable. As larvae tend to remain in the field they hatch in, infestation may vary considerably from field to field.

**Life History:**

Adult wireworms are known as click beetles because of the distinct clicking sound they make as they flip into the air after being overturned. Pest species are usually brown or black, ranging in length from 8 to 15 mm. They overwinter both as adults and larvae.

Early in the spring, the beetles become active, mate and lay their eggs around grass roots. The larvae, hatching in 3 to 10 days, spend the next 2 to 6 years feeding on the roots of host species. Larvae of pest species are usually hard, smooth and dark colored, though some are yellow or white. They range from 1.2 to 4 cm in length when fully developed. They pupate late in the summer. Adults overwinter in the ground in the pupal cell. There are usually wireworms in all states of development in an infested field as the larval stage takes several years.

**Pest Management:**

For information on the control of this insect consult your provincial Department of Agriculture. Elaterid larvae (wireworms) require up to five years to mature in their soil habitat. Damage to tubers and grain roots may subject the plants to secondary infection by pathogens. Rotation minimizes threat.

**Wireworms**

- Agriotes sparsus* LeConte
- Ctenicera aeripennis* (Kirby)
- Ctenicera destructor* (Brown)
- Ctenicera lobata* (Eschscholtz)
- Limonius californicus* (Mannerheim)
- Limonius canus* LeConte
- Limonius infuscatus* Motschulsky

Remain active in the soil for two to five years, attacking a wide range of plants, including vegetables. Damage is more prevalent in crops planted in newly broken land following permanent sod. There are about 150 species in British Columbia, but only seven are of economic importance.

**Vegetables Attacked:**

Most vegetables: bean, carrot, cole crops: broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, radish, rutabaga, turnip

**Injury:**

In the spring, wireworms bore into seeds or underground stems of seedlings and transplants, causing the tops to show stunting and abnormal growth or shriveling. Tops remain attached to their roots. Damage is distinct from that caused by cutworms, which sever emerging plants at or below the soil surface. Later in the growing season, wireworms feed by boring tunnels up to 3 mm in diameter and 4 cm deep in developing roots, tubers or

bulbs. Feeding is most damaging at this time and reduce yield or makes root, tubers or bulbs unmarketable. Mid- and late-season damage in root crops cannot be detected until harvest.

**Insect:**

The adult or beetle is 10 to 16 mm long, hard shelled and flat, black, tan or dark brown. Beetles fly and feed on the foliage on blossoms of trees and shrubs. They are called click beetles because of the clicking sound made when flipping over from their back to their feet. Eggs are white and round. Newly hatched larvae or wireworms have three pairs of legs, are white and 1.5 mm long. Later they become slender, hard-bodied, shiny yellow-brown and when mature are up to 3 cm long. They move slowly in the soil and remain motionless when disturbed. Several developmental stages of one species may be found in the soil at one time. Pupae are white but are rarely seen.

**Life History:**

The life cycle ranges from three to six years with two to five years as actively feeding larva-e. Beetles emerge from the soil in early summer when the soil temperature has warmed to 18ø or 21øC. Following mating, each female beetle lays 50 to 300 eggs in the soil 2.5 to 15 cm beneath the surface. Larvae hatch in three to four weeks and begin feeding. When the surface temperature reaches about 27øC in mid-summer, wireworms move downward in the soil until suitable temperature zones are found. When summer temperatures modulate, they return to the surface and continue feeding until cooler fall temperatures cause them to move downward again, where they remain for the winter. In the spring when surface soil temperatures reach about 10øC, they again move upward. This cycle is repeated until the wireworms are mature. Mature worms pupate for three weeks in earthen cells 7 to 20 cm below the soil surface. Beetles emerge in early summer to repeat the cycle.

**Control:**

Controls are directed against the larvae. Recommended insecticides must be incorporated into the soil to depths of at least 15 cm to be effective. Fumigants are expensive and reliable only if properly applied when the surface temperature is over 10øC and the soil is not excessively wet. Once wireworms have been controlled, reinfestation to economic levels may not occur for up to 10 years. Insecticide seed coatings protect direct-seeded crops but only slightly reduce the wireworm population in the field.

<http://www3.telus.net/conrad/insects/wireworm.html>



# EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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

## Club Kitchen Duties:

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

### Set-up & Clean-up:

Bev Davy  
 Judeen Hendrickson  
 Monika Morgan  
 Gillian Seal-Jones  
 Marion Johnston  
 Dot Garbet  
 John Cassells  
 Elaine Scott

### Kitchen Helpers:

John Cassells  
 Valerie Robinson  
 Cori-Lee Fisher

### Christmas Party:

John Cassells



# MESSAGES OF INTEREST FROM OTHER CLUBS

## COMOX VALLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

This month is a transition one for us as our newly elected Executive Members assume their duties after our recent October AGM.

At this point in time, I will simply state for your member's information that the Comox Valley Horticultural Society meets in the Conference Hall at the Florence Filberg Centre, 411 Anderton Ave, Courtenay, BC on the third Monday of every month, except December and July.

Meet and Greet begins at 7 pm. No guest speaker for November's General Meeting. For more information, contact Leslie Cox at [duchessofdirt@telus.net](mailto:duchessofdirt@telus.net) or [250-337-8051](tel:250-337-8051).

I will be able to send you an update of our Guest Speaker line-up once I have met with our new Program Chairperson at our upcoming Executive Meeting scheduled for Nov. 2nd.

Regards,  
Leslie

Leslie Cox  
Duchess of Dirt - Garden Writer, Presenter & Educator

[250-337-8051](tel:250-337-8051)  
[duchessofdirt@telus.net](mailto:duchessofdirt@telus.net)

### FALL CLASSES AT RUSSELL NURSERY

The classes are free except as noted and last about one hour. Please note that class sizes are limited and reservations are needed. Call (250) 656-0384 to reserve a space. There is a limit of two classes per person. The nursery is located at 1370 Wain Rd. in North Saanich.

**Japanese Maple Pruning - with Brian Russell.** This workshop will take place in February 2012. Please call to be put on a contact list so that you can be notified, once the date has been confirmed.

■ Wreath Making - Make your own wreath with fresh local greens, cones, berries and other natural embellishments. Bring your secateurs and gloves and come and enjoy some hot cider and camaraderie while creating your own seasonal masterpiece. **Cost: \$35.** Enrolment is limited. Please register for one of the following times:

**Saturday, November 26** at 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

**Monday, November 28** at 10:00 a.m. **Cancelled - Changed** to December 05 at 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, December 03** at 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 04** at 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

**NEW Monday, December 05** at 10:00 a.m.

■ **Wednesday, December 07** at 1:00 p.m.

**Friday, December 09** at 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, December 10** at 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

**Centrepieces - with Faye Ford.** Create a lovely, long-lasting natural table arrangement for the Christmas season; good for hall or coffee tables, dining room, or makes a very welcome gift. Includes container, oasis, candle, greens and embellishments. **Cost \$35.**

■ **Thursday, December 15** at 1:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 17** at 1:00 p.m.



# Grapevine

Salt Spring Island Garden Club

November 2011  
Published by Agromedia, 010102

## Growing and Protecting Perennial Winter Vegetables

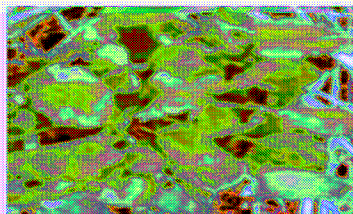
By: Marsha Goldberg- Eagleridge Seeds

Perennial winter vegetables thrive on Salt Spring Island. They love our wet autumn conditions and survive our winter temperatures with very little effort on our part. It takes a little planning, then very little maintenance to enjoy these nutritious plants. They taste best at this time of year, right through to the following spring. For summer they go to seed. Once this cycle is complete, they are cut back to grow again in the fall.

Location is key. Find a spot in your garden that drains well and allows easy access during the winter. An in-ground raised bed is ideal. Use mulches of straw or leaves to protect them during the coldest part of the winter. If cold temperatures are in the forecast put aside some dry mulch to lightly cover the whole plant. Once the cold snap is past, just pull the cover back. Keep the mulch in place throughout the growing season.

These plants can be started from seed in the spring or late summer. I will include here some of the many varieties we raise for seed and have been growing on our farm for many years.

**Variegated Cress** is a beautiful spicy warm salad addition, with leaves of cream, yellow and green that grow in a nice rosette ten inches across.



*Variegated Cress*

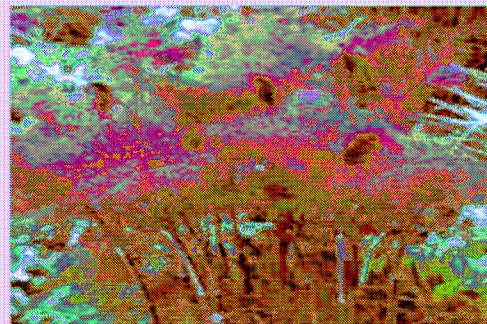
**Sylvetta Arugula** has small olive green leaves which peak in the summer through fall and regrow again. **Pink Plume Celery**, which is very rare, has thin pinkish red stalks with bright green leaves and forms a nice dense bush 8-10 inches across. The flavour is rich in the cool times of the year, sweet and delicious. **Bronze Fennel** is a stunning architectural plant that grows to 6 feet tall in the summer, with delicious licorice-flavoured greens that emerge in very early spring. **Perennial Bunching Onion / Sperling Toga Onion** and **He**

**Shi Ko Bunching Onion** sprout in early fall and provide fresh greens in early spring that can emerge right through the snow. **Salad Burnet**, which dates back to Elizabethan England, forms a beautiful small bush of blue/green half -inch leaves with gentle scalloped edges. The taste is similar to cucumber, a very refreshing salad addition and garnish.

**Mitsuba**, a rare variety from Japan, thrives in the fall garden right thru to spring. Delicious triangular soft green leaves form a dense cluster six inches across. **Bietina**, an extremely rare chard from Italy has a soft green colour. This famous classic has very low oxalic acid, unlike other chards and beet greens, so it is sweet and smooth, ideal for salad or steamed when mature. It thrives in the fall and spring garden. **Giante d'Italia Parsley**, which self seeds readily once you establish a space for it, although not a perennial, grows year round and is fabulous right through the winter. This favourite of mine has soft green flat leaves, grows in a fan shaped clump, and has deep dissected edges.

Most of these plants would not be considered deer-proof. They could also be grown in large pots if you keep them against your house and protect them with mulch during the coldest weather. One option would be to place the pots in a group and stuff straw around them. Snow does act as insulation in combination with mulch.

We do have some pictures posted with in depth descriptions on our website for our perennial collection. You can find us at [www.eagleridgeseed.com](http://www.eagleridgeseed.com) and we welcome local visitors in late winter for sampling



*Bronze Fennel*



PO Box 2227, Stn A, Nanaimo BC V9R 6X6  
 www/cvibgs.org email:cvibgs@cvibgs.org

October 22,2011

To Central Vancouver Island Botanical Garden Society Members, Exhibitors, Vendors, Sponsors, Attendees and Volunteers:

Re: Spring Garden Show 2012, Nanaimo BC

At a recent meeting of the CVIBGS Board and interested members it was decided that the Society **will not** put on the Spring Garden Show in 2012.

This decision was taken following a loss at the 2011 show. After a careful review of our financial situation from the point of view of economics and manpower with input from current vendors, past show organizers and founding members, it was concluded that the Society was in an untenable situation. We considered hiring a paid event co-ordinator in order to help with the manpower issue but on reviewing bids it was felt that in the current economic climate it would not be a good move.

We therefore reluctantly have decided to cancel the 2012 show. However, we are continuing to work on ideas for an alternative format or a possible resurrection of the show when the situation improves. Among other options, we are looking at the possibility of sponsoring a fundraising Speaker series to stimulate Horticultural interest in the Central Island.

At this time we need and welcome input from all of you. We will be holding another meeting November 3, 6:30 pm GR Paine Horticultural Center at 2324 East Wellington Rd, Nanaimo to discuss ideas brought forward and to brainstorm for the future. If you are unable to attend but have ideas, send them to CVIBGS secretary Lynn Wilby at [bhwilby@shaw.ca](mailto:bhwilby@shaw.ca) to be shared at the meeting. If you have received this by mail, please advise us of your email address for future notices.

The Board wishes to sincerely thank all of you who have been a part of this event over the past 16 years. We hope the experience was a good one for you and that you will participate in our revitalization.

Ian Seal, Treasurer  
 for the  
 Central Vancouver Island Botanical Garden Society Board of Directors



# Horticulture Centre of the Pacific

## Master Gardener Program

January 2012 will see the start of a new Master Gardener class. This interesting, ambitious program is designed for avid gardeners who wish to increase their knowledge. [Click here](#) for all the details.. The course is taught at HCP by a Master Gardener supplemented by local experts. All potential students are encouraged to attend an information session held at the HCP by the Victoria Master Gardener Association (VMGA). Please call the HCP at [250-479-6162](tel:250-479-6162) or [orgardeninfo@hcp.ca](mailto:orgardeninfo@hcp.ca) to register and ensure your place in the next class. If you cannot attend the session, please contact the HCP and alternate arrangements can be made.

InfoSession: Tuesday November 15th 2011 7:00 – 8:30

## Christmas Trees & Gift Certificates

HCP is grateful for businesses that have come forward to offer you the opportunity to help us raise funds to build the Couvelier Pavilion by shopping at their outlets. Here we go...

### Urban Oasis Garden Centre



Urban Oasis Garden Centre, a neighbour of HCP, will donate \$5 from the sale of every \$39.99 pre-ordered Christmas Tree. Sandra, owner of Urban Oasis, asks that you put your order in by November 20<sup>th</sup> for pick up in December.

The trees are 5-7' Douglas fir and will be hand-picked by Sandra from Mill Bay's Wintergreen Farm. They grow these 'happy' trees from seedlings, which gives them a nice straight trunk. You may upgrade to a Pine, Grande, or Noble fir at time of purchase.

To order, contact Sandra at Urban Oasis by phone at [250.479.6868](tel:250.479.6868) Or drop by her store at 4649 West Saanich Road.

## Christmas Craft Workshops



### Holiday Wreath Making

Friday Nov. 25th, 9:30 AM -12:30 PM,  
Saturday Nov. 26th 9 AM -12 noon,  
Saturday Nov. 26th 1:30 - 4:30 PM,  
Sunday Nov. 27th, 1 PM - 4 PM.

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.

Members \$35; Non-members \$45

### Swags & Door Sprays

Saturday December 3rd 1pm-4pm OR  
Sunday December 4th 1pm-4pm

Floral designer help you

Anne Bowen will take full advantage bounty Gardens send home

the of the & you with



creations your front way or mantle

to turn door, entry into the envy of

the neighbourhood. Anne will also demonstrate techniques to turn your existing outdoor containers into holiday decorations.

Members \$40.00 plus material;  
Non-members \$50.00 plus material  
For more information or to register, call [250-479-6162](tel:250-479-6162).

**Alderlea  
Farm**



[johnkaty@shaw.ca](mailto:johnkaty@shaw.ca)

**3390 Glenora  
Road Duncan, 250-  
715-0799**

## Oh, Christmas Tree Event



**Come and enjoy a special festive lunch at Alderlea Farm Café. After lunch, Farmer John will take your family on a tractor ride to Middlemas Christmas Tree Farm to choose and cut your beautiful Christmas tree.**

**Enjoy a delicious roast turkey or pizza luncheon  
adults \$15.00 and children \$7.50**

**Tractor ride and Christmas tree is only \$40.00**

**Please reserve your date for this special family event**

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00**

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 12:00**

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 12:00**

**The beautiful Christmas trees at Middlemas are  
premium trees and sustainably grown**

**Please forward information to any families who may be interested**



# Young Naturalists Club

## What We're About

YNC is for children up to age 11 and their families who enjoy discovering new things about birds, fish, mammals, trees, flowers, rocks, soil, water and everything in nature and who want to learn more about helping the environment.



## Explorer Days!

One Saturday and one Tuesday (for home learners) every month YNC kids and their families go to special places in the Cowichan Valley and surrounding areas. We meet up with naturalists and scientists who help us learn lots about what lives there. We also get to know other kids and families who are interested in nature.



## More Info

Membership costs \$25 per year per family and includes a subscription to NatureWILD magazine, a new member's kit, contests, awards, and prizes from the Young Naturalists Club of BC.

Here is how to find out more:

Website: [youth.naturecowichan.net](http://youth.naturecowichan.net)

Email: [YNC@naturecowichan.net](mailto:YNC@naturecowichan.net)

Phone: Linda or John at 250-746-6141

If the membership fee is a financial barrier for your family ask about subsidies.

