



Mill Bay Garden Club April 2012

NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgnewsletter@gmail.com



TWO EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED!

Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens

Friday, April, 27th, 2012 at 7:30PM

Garth Homer Centre, 813 Darwin Ave., Victoria, BC

Alexander Reford, Director and Great Grandson of Elsie Reford will speak on Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens. These spectacular gardens are on the lower St. Lawrence River. One of the gardens alone contains thousands of naturalized Himalayan Blue Poppies that were started originally from seed by Elsie in the 1930s.

Call 250-479-6162 For Tickets \$15.00.

All Proceeds go to the Couvelier Pavilion Fund at the HCP

This is a rare event! Info: www.refordgardens.com or www.hcp.ca

Bill Herring's Open Garden

Saturday, May 19th, 9:30 – 11:30

Cobble Hill

Bill Herring will once again open his vegetable garden to MBGC members during the May long weekend. Any member interested in starting to grow vegetables or wanting to improve his or her techniques will want to attend. Bill will be available to answer any questions.

From the Trans Canada Highway, go east on Kilmalu Rd., then north on Telegraph Rd. After the gravel pit, Kilipi is the first road (east) on the right. It is then the second driveway on your right.

Nominating Committee For 2012/13 Slate of Executive Members

The Nominating Committee has been struck and consists of Joy Story, Pip Woodcock and Cliff Stainsby. If you are interesting in letting your name stand for any of the positions on the Executive (see sidebar) please contact Cliff Stainsby. Several of the members are unable to carry on next year so there will be opportunities for you to help plan and organize the activities of the Club.

Next Meeting April 24th

The April meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on Tuesday, April 24th at 7 PM at the Mill Bay Community League Hall – 1001 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd.

The doors will open at 6:30pm to provide you with the opportunity to check out the Club library and plant sale table, buy your raffle tickets, put your exhibits on the brag table and socialize. This is a great little garden club that is very social so it is a wonderful place to meet new friends and catch up with old friends. Remember, if you need a ride either phone Ajay or Elaine who will try to make arrangements to get you to the meeting.

Please remember your mug and to wear a name tag. If you do not have a permanent name tag, they can be ordered through Gale McIntyre for \$10, which is payable when you order. If you do not have a name tag or wrote your name on a paper tag last meeting, please see Mary Gale. Wearing a name tag really helps with the social side of the Club which is important for all members.

Cowichan Valley / Mill Bay Garden Clubs Combined Bus Tour of Port Alberni

Ruby Armour, Mill Bay Garden Club Rep for the Tour.

Sunday, June 24th, 2012

Departure from Duncan Mall at 8:00 AM, Sharp!

COST: \$40 - LIMIT OF 47 SEATS

Bring a Bag Lunch

The bus will leave from the Duncan Mall parking lot at 8:00 sharp and the estimated time of return is 6:30pm. Depending on the time available, about four of the six gardens in Port Alberni listed below will be on the tour plus the Arrowsmith Greenhouse. The six gardens include:

1. Irene and Garry Densmore, 600 Strathcona Street. There are gardens and more gardens on this large and beautiful property. Have fun exploring the two cutting gardens (annual at the front and perennial at the back), the pool garden, the wild garden and the park garden. The landscaping and flowerbeds are designed with a large deer problem in mind.
2. Janis Nairne and Robert Gunn. 5115 Gordan Street. You will find many gardens on this lovely property including a huge vegetable garden. A wide array of trees and shrubs abound.
3. Petra Vicic and Rob McCurrah. 7166 Mackenzie. If you would like to grow melons, visit Petra's unique raised beds. She has devoted one quarter of this large lot to growing vegetables in these gardens. Not content with this undertaking, she has developed the back with a beautiful pond and many shrubs and flowers. There is another garden "in progress".
4. Blethering Hill Farm. 6438 Withers Road. This is a garden that goes on and on. As you enter there are banks of Rhodes on the right, rock steps with lavender borders and banks of heathers. You will find enormous greenhouses and large vegetable gardens.
5. Ken and Shauna Seegmiller. 10237 Bishop Drive, Sproat Lake. This is a fabulous 22 year old garden still in progress. Behind the old fashioned snake fence is a large garden room with creeping thyme on the walkways. Lasagne gardening created the front beds and the back has a lovely gazebo and terrace.
6. Cynthia Bonesky and Hardy Fink. Sproat Lake. Cynthia is a noted artist and, as an added bonus, her house and gallery will be open to visitors. The garden is a large, varied garden on the lake.
7. Arrowsmith Greenhouse. Make sure that you have a box or something similar to put your purchases in.

Please call Ruby Armour should you wish to reserve a seat. Payment of \$40 is required at the time of reservation. Ruby will also have a table at the April 24 meeting. Tickets will go fast. Cancellations must be made 48 hours in advance. Otherwise the tickets are non-refundable. Payment is by cash or cheque.

April 24th Brag Table Theme:
"Bulbs and Blooms"

The plant and flower identification and commentary will be provided this month by 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 150 club members trying to find parking outside 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.



Kitchen Duties

Diane Regan, Kitchen

1 litre of 2% Milk:

Marion Johnston

Cookies / Goodies:

Louise Ketilson

Hennie Roke

Carol Goodger-Hill

Kitchen Helpers:

Mary-Ellen Deuling

Kathy Edmunds

Set Up / Clean Up:

Joy Story

Stephanie Walter

Pip Woodcock

John Dench

President's Report

Ajay Oppelaar

The joys of spring are all around, especially for me in the form of daffodils and narcissus. I planted innumerable bulbs the year before last and this spring they're established and just beginning the 6-week show they provide. Feel free to have a drive by at my place any time over the next month or so. The bulk of the blooms are roadside, just below the rockery that forms the foundation of our front yard, though above the rockery are also hundreds of tulips, muscari, hyacinth and more daffodils.

My address is here in Mill Bay just off the spur of Deloume Road that is off Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road. For those of you who haven't been out here before, you can Google the address for directions with a minor adjustment: Google will read "turn right on Fern Ridge Drive, turn left on Fern Ridge Drive". It should read "turn right on Gibbs Place, turn left on Fern Ridge Drive". We're on the right hand corner of the intersection of Fern Ridge Drive and Arken Terrace. It will be obvious that you've found it. Call ahead if you want a more personal tour.

Thanks to the hard work of Cowichan Valley Garden Club member Cheryl Nielson, the bus tour has a route, a date and all details have been worked out. Our thanks to Diane McAmmond and Cheryl for taking this on and many thanks to our own beloved Ruby Armour for being the MBGC coordinator on our end. It should be a terrific day with many Alberni area gardens featured.

At our Executive meeting we discussed ways to orient new members and help them in fully benefiting from what the club has to offer. In addition to the welcome letter and explanation of programs and structure, volunteer opportunities and education, we will be compiling a list of our resident experts that will be posted to the website. When complete, members who have a specific question can go to the website and find the name and contact information for the specific resident expert or experienced lay person within the club who may best provide them with the answers being sought.

We encourage new members to ask questions at the meetings because the best way for us all to know you is to make yourself known. No question is too intermediate: the reality is that others in the room will benefit from hearing the answer too. The purpose of the club is twofold: social and educational. By involving yourself through asking a question during a meeting, you're achieving both these benefits. So join in, ask questions, talk to our experts during the coffee break. Ask me to hook you up with the right person who can guide you to the right information.

Your Executive also discussed meeting length. It seems that our new format of less business and more member involvement is successful and popular, but it can make timing tight towards the end of the night.

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Welcome to New Members

Heather Gibbins, Membership

The MBGC would like to wish a warm welcome to our newest members:

Eleonore Petersen
Sandy Potter

You will find this to be a friendly club. Please feel free to contact any members of the Executive should there be any questions that you would like to ask. You will find the contact information for all members of The Executive in this newsletter.

Executive Members

President:

Ajay Oppelaar

Vice-President:

Cliff Stainsby

Treasurer:

Gale McIntyre

Secretary:

Arlene Dench

Past-President:

Barb Kohlman

Kitchen:

Diane Regan

President's Report - Continued

We don't want to cut back on time for Q&A and the Brag Table, these are two very popular and educational portions of the meetings.

What we will do is keep the member's forum to a more streamlined limit of 2 minutes per person, and only two members may ask for time per meetings. That was the original goal and while allowing members a voice, it can take up a bit of time. If you want forum time at a meeting, please contact me the week prior and I will add you to the agenda, time allowing.

We will also not be so focused on ending the meeting on a tight timeline of 9 PM. The speakers Cliff books should have ample time to finish their presentations without having to rush or edit to make it to the finish line. If meetings run 15 minutes long from time to time, we hope you will all be in agreement that it is for the benefit of the club.

Vice President's Report

Cliff Stainsby

The speaker at the meeting in April will be Joy Story. She will tell us about how she grows vegetables using permaculture techniques that are labour saving and ecologically sustainable.

The speaker in May will be Pat Johnson who will speak about gardening with native plants. Pat Johnson is a Native Plant Gardening Consultant who for the past 12 years has been helping private and public gardeners incorporate native plants into their landscapes. She has also partnered with Victoria Capital Regional District's Water Department, Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary and other community organizations to facilitate over 200 Native Plant Gardening Workshops. Pat, along with other gardeners, developed a native plant demonstration garden in her own yard and works in various native plant gardens in the Victoria region. Pat's passion about our native flora inspires others to want to use them in our gardens.

Garden Club Plant Sale Committee

Elaine Scott, Chair

Your plant sale committee would like to remind you that the annual Mill Bay Garden Club Plant sale will take place during the Community Flower and Garden Show at the Cobble Hill Farmer's Institute Hall on June 16, 2012. We depend on **YOU** our garden club members to have a successful plant sale. As you continue to clean up your garden, please remember to pot up plants for the sale. We would kindly ask that you refrain from donating invasive plants and the Committee does have the prerogative to remove invasive plants from the sale. Last year we raised \$1,029 for the Club. This money goes a long way to assisting the club support worthwhile gardening related projects. If every one of you donated five plants (and many of you donate more than that) we will have a wonderful selection of plants for sale.

Executive Members - Cont.

Historian:

Mary Gale

Membership:

Heather Gibbins

Library:

Janice Rose

Raffle:

Carmen Stanek

Plant Sales:

Heather Jenkins

Website:

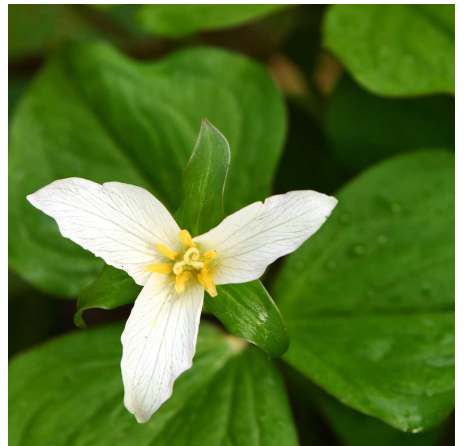
Elizabeth Coulter

Interim Editor:

Elaine Scott

Newsletter Layout & Photos:

Kerry Davis



2012 Community Flower and Garden Show

Heather Gibbins

Plans for the June 16th Flower and Garden Show are coming along nicely. I would like to thank Nick Jenkins and Mary-Ellen Deuling for taking on the Outside Vendors portion of the committee. Nick has also offered to do the balance of the computer work on the programs. The team has pulled together and is a friendly, cohesive, hard working group of individuals. I am so proud to be part of this team effort.

I have contacted the Judges and at this point in time there will be six judges. They were delighted that we would be providing them with a snack prior to judging. The judges come from all over the Island, the farthest being from Nanaimo and Sooke.

Ladysmith 15th Annual Garden Tour

Sunday, May 27th, 2012

Continental Breakfast: 9:00 a.m. for \$3

Welcome and Speakers or Video: 9:15 a.m.

Self-Guided Tour of the Gardens: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tickets for Tour: \$15

(See Rotary members , Phoenix Restaurant, or tickets at the door.)

The Ladysmith Rotary Club is proud to announce the 15th Annual Garden Tour, Sale and Show on Sunday, May 27th, 2012. The self-guided tour of nine gardens features the creations of local gardeners, as well as the opportunity to learn from these outdoor enthusiasts.

The Show and Sale begins at 8:45a.m. at Aggie Hall, on First Avenue, in Ladysmith and offers a delicious \$3 continental breakfast. Local garden-based businesses exhibit items for sale all day.

This is an opportunity for gardeners of all skill levels to admire gardens otherwise unavailable to them. The gardens open at 10:00 a.m.; garden visitors will receive their maps and brochures in the marooning at Aggie Hall. Many garden visitors will benefit by getting fresh ideas and the enthusiasm and joy of tending a garden. there will be a variety of Vendors at the Aggie Hall selling their garden plants, tools and garden items. Local artists will be in attendance at each garden.

Raffle tickets are now available from Rotary members. They will also be sold thE day of the tour at Aggie Hall. remaining tickets will be sold the day of the tour. The raffle draw is at 3:00 p.m. at Aggie Hall.

All proceeds from ticket sales, raffle and breakfast go to support Rotary's good work and worthy projects. Contact - any Ladysmith Rotarian, for more information on the event.

May 2012 Gardening Tips

Barb Kohlman, Past President.

If you "do" bedding plants, pick them up from the nursery as the stock is available, but don't plant until about the May long weekend when the soil has warmed sufficiently.

Stake and support taller plants. Pinch back leggy growth. Plants like Shasta Daisies can be pinched back to July 1st to encourage strong stems and good flowering.

Check your flowering shrubs. Are a few good branches developing to enter into the Flower and Garden Show?

Fertilize bulbs that have finished flowering to encourage good bloom for next season, and leave foliage until it dies back naturally.

Prune spring flowering shrubs that have now finished blooming.

Pull up the forget-me-nots and compost before the seed is mature if you don't want too many next spring.

Lightly shear back early spring-flowering perennials such as arabis and aubreita.

Let your daffodils and tulips die back naturally. Hybrid tulips naturally morph to just leaves after about two years. For successful tulips year after year try the species tulips---less spectacular, perhaps, but much more dependable. Feed with liquid organic fertilizer so they will flower well next year. Also feed Alliums (ornamental onions) as the flowers fade.

Plant Dahlia tubers, making sure to drive the stakes in first, to avoid damage to tubers.

Train/tie in young shoots of climbers to cover desired space.

Keep newly sown or turfed lawns well watered.

Onion Lore

Edited for length from an internet article contributed by Bill Herring

In 1919 when the flu killed 40 million people, there was a doctor who visited the many farmers to see if he could help them combat the flu... many of the farmers and their families had contracted it and many died.

The doctor came upon one farm in particular and to his surprise, everyone was very healthy. When the doctor asked what the farmer was doing that was different, the wife replied that she had placed an unpeeled onion in a dish in the rooms of the home (probably only two rooms back then). The doctor couldn't believe it and asked if he could have one of the onions and place it under the microscope. She gave him one and when he did this, he did find the flu virus in the onion. It obviously absorbed the bacteria, therefore, keeping the family healthy.

Now, I heard this story from my hairdresser: She said that several years ago, many of her employees were coming down with the flu, and so were many of her customers. The next year she placed several bowls with onions around her shop. To her surprise, none of her staff got sick. It must work. Try it and see what happens. We did it last year and we never got the flu.

Another thing I read in the article was that onions and garlic placed around the room saved many from the black plague years ago. They have powerful antibacterial and antiseptic properties.

Often, when we have stomach problems, we don't know what to blame. Maybe it's the onions that are to blame. Onions' ability to absorb bacteria is the reason they are so good at preventing us from getting colds and flu and is the very reason we shouldn't eat an onion that has been sitting for a time after it has been cut open. Onions are a huge magnet for bacteria, especially uncooked onions. You should never plan to keep a portion of a sliced onion. Also, dogs should never eat onions as their stomachs cannot metabolize them.



Junior Master Gardener Summer Camps

Elaine Scott

Want a neat idea for your grandchild or child for a summer camp this year? Last year my (then) seven year old grandson attended the Junior Master Gardener Camp at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific and absolutely loved it. The camp is every morning, Monday to Friday. It will be offered twice this year – July 9-13 and August 13-17. The cost is \$100 per child and this includes all supplies. All they need to take is a snack each day. And guess what, my grandson wants to go again this year. Phone the HCP at 250-479-6162 for registration or for further information.

GROW FOOD Gardening Classes

This month's GROW FOOD Gardening Classes:

Wed. April 18th:

Growing Great
Vegetables

Wed. April 25th:

Grow Food in Containers

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Place: Sunflower Café, 149

Canada Ave. Duncan, BC

Cost: \$20.00 drop in or \$15.00

for past participants and Grow

Food Magazine subscribers

Please note: Gardening Classes
will end in May

For more info:

growfood@shaw.ca

www.growfoodnetwork.com/

Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 27th, 2012

7:02 p.m. call to order

President's report: Ajay Oppelaar

1. That the minutes from February's meeting be approved.

Moved by Bill Herring

Seconded Janice Rose. Carried.

2. Welcome Elaine Scott as Interim Newsletter Editor, Loraine Little will assist as needed
3. Thank you to set-up/kitchen crew;
4. New members 'welcome letter' handed out; also members are requested to wear name tags and/or to order green name tags;
5. Review of President's report from the newsletter; reminders of open positions on the Exec next year: Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair, Website Administrator; our nominating committee will be seated by May

Pink erythronium (Dog tooth or Fawn Lily) at the Honeymoon Bay Ecological Reserve;

Vice President's report: Cliff Stainsby - no report

Treasurer's report: Gale McIntyre – posted

Secretary's report: Elizabeth Coulter sitting in for Arlene Dench – no report

Committee reports:

Flower and Garden Show: Heather Gibbins

Welcome Mary-Ellen Deuling and Nick Jenkins as co-chairs for vendors program

More help needed on the Saturday; 58 pots with seeds have been distributed to kids;

Membership: Heather Gibbins

Welcome to 11 new members from Seedy Saturday.

Raffle: Carmen Stanek

Many nice prizes will be raffled tonight.

Plant Sales: Heather Jenkins

Variety of plants tonight – also donations of home produce and preserves are accepted.

Library: Janice Rose

New purchase is Norman Todd's book on Rhodos; also 3 books have been donated by Stephanie Walter and 4 copies of "Judging Standards".

Newsletter: Elaine Scott

Thank you to Dee for her beautiful Newsletters and her hard work.

Victoria Chrysanthemum Society will hold their sale on April 14 10-12 at St Matthias Hall. See Elaine for more info.

Kitchen: Dianne Regan – no report

Historian: Mary Gale

Card and letter from Peggy and Jack Tyler; Cynthia Vernal is on the mend;

Welcome Diane McAmmond, President of the Cowichan Valley Garden Club, to discuss a joint bus tour: The Cowichan Club is planning to visit the Port Alberni "Garden and Art" Tour - Sunday June 24th – maybe \$40-45 per person, and to visit the Arrowsmith Greenhouse on the way back; Our Club

Members' Forum:

Elaine Scott - reminder of Plant Sale at the Flower & Garden Show on June 16th; please prepare and donate plants to this sale; Heather Sale on Saturday March 31st at the Cobble Hill Hall;

Seeds for Malawi Plant Sale on April 28th at Elaine's place;

Bev Rempel – check out her blogsite and pinterest;

Joy Story – organic berry workshop – April 12 with Tom Baumann

April 7th – grafting cutting, etc at the Eco Village; more info on the club website and on Joy's site: growfood@shaw.ca

Brag Table: Barb Kohlman with "Spring Forward" for March

Beautiful spring blooms and winter veggies;

Q&A with Bill Herring

Bill discussed fang-y roots on Parsnips when they are planted in new manure and the roots divide; when root veggies start regrowing the green top, it is time to plant the new seeds; do not let parsnips go to seed; plant parsnips individually in zigzag, 2-2 1/2 inches apart;

Coffee/tea social time

Raffle

Tonight's speakers: A panel of our own Master Gardeners, Barb Kohlman, Pip Woodcock, and Elaine Scott discussing the Spring garden and jobs to be done; questions answered.

Adjournment and clean-up

Elizabeth Coulter

Acting Secretary

'Tis the Season for Plant Sales!

Here are some that you will not want to miss:

Saturday, April 21st, 10:00 to 2:00: Cairnsmore Place, 250 Cairnsmore St. Plant sale to raise funds for the maintenance of the gardens at the residence. Organized by the Volunteer Gardeners. Everyone is invited to tour the yard to witness the results of work done over the past three years for the enjoyment of the residents and staff. There will be over 300 plants, some mason bee houses and garden ornaments for sale. **This is one of the community projects that the Mill Bay Garden Club has contributed to in the past.**

Saturday, April 21st, 9:00 to 3:00: Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Native Plant Sale. If you are interested in native plants this is an event not to be missed. Go to the Cairnsmore sale first and then head down to 3873 Swan Lake Road in Victoria for the Swan Lake sale. For more information phone 250-479-0211 or visit www.swanlake.bc.ca.

April 21 and 22. 10:00 to 4:00 Milner Gardens Spring Plant Sale. 2179 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach. Add a piece of this Heritage Garden to your own garden. A large selection of propagated material will be offered for sale. Admission by donation. For more information phone 250-752-6153

Saturday April 28, 9:00 to 2:00. Seeds for Malawi Plant Sale. Elaine Scott's Garden, 2836 Oceanside Lane, Mill Bay. Join Garden Club Members Barb Kohlman, Sharon Martin, Ali Morris and Elaine Scott at this annual plant sale for Seeds for Malawi – a grass-roots project that helps families dealing with Aids in Malawi. Hundreds of interesting plants for sale at very reasonable prices. Have fun and help a worthy project at the same time. Open Garden and Master Gardeners on hand. For more information or a list of plants for sale phone Elaine at 250-743-0965 or send her an email at TheScottRogers@aol.com.

Saturday April 28. 10-noon. Evelyn Weesjes' Plant Sale. 10629 Derrick Rd., Deep Cove. Visit the Seeds for Malawi sale as soon as it opens and then head to Evelyn's sale for woodland specialties.

Sunday April 29. 11:00 to 4:00 Victoria Dahlia Society annual plant and tuber sale. Westshore Centre, Langford. For more information visit www.victoriadahliasociety.org.

Saturday May 5. 10:00 to 2:00. Cowichan Rhodo Show and Plant Sale. Exhibition Hall, Duncan. This is a great sale to pick up those unusual rhodos directly from the growers. For more information visit www.cowichan.rhodos.ca.

Sunday May 6. 10:00 – 1:00 UVic Humungous Plant Sale. McKinnon Gym, UVic. <http://external.uvic.ca/gardens/events.php>. This is always a wonderful plant sale.

Sunday May 13. 10:00 – 2:00 Carmen Varcoe and Friends Plant Sale. 5450 Old West Saanich Road. A great place to pick up unusual plants. Carmen was a recent speaker at the Cowichan Valley Garden Club and the members just raved over her plant knowledge.

May 19 and 20. 1535 Oceanspray Drive. North Saanich. 10:00 to 4:00. Frieda and friends annual plant sale. Frieda, Dale and Pat are great propagators and always have hundreds of plants for sale ranging from garden favourites to unusual and new introductions. For a partial plant list email Frieda at oceanspraygarden@gmail.com

May 25 and 26. Victoria Cactus Society annual sale and show. Hillside Mall. For more information visit www.victoria.cactus-society.org.



Other Garden Events That You Will Not Want To Miss!

Wednesday, May 2nd, 7:00 pm: *Landscape design in our acid soils using heathers and interesting companion plants.* Barb Kohlman and Elaine Scott. St. Peter's Anglican Church. 5800 Church St., Duncan. Heather Society Members free. Non members \$5. www.bcheathersociety.org.

Saturday, April 21st, 11:00 am to 3:30 pm: *Chocolate Lily Festival.* St. Peter's Anglican Church, Duncan. \$5 at the door. Native plant tours on the church grounds and chocolate from local chocolatiers.

Sunday, April 29th, Noon to 3:00 pm: *Wildflower Weekend at the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary.* 3873 Swan Lake Road. Victoria. 250-479-0211. www.swanlake.bc.ca Admission by Donation.

Sunday, April 29th, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm: *Seaside Blooms with a view.* Shoreline Walk with CRD Parks Naturalist. www.crd.bc.ca/parks/events/calendar.aspx.

Tuesday, May 1st, 7:30 pm: *Clematis and other Vines.* Fred Wein Sr. Clearview Horticultural Products. Victoria Horticulture Society meeting. Garth Homer Centre. This is a great speaker who is one of the main propagators of clematis in North America.

Saturday, May 5th, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm: **IN BLOOM at the Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve.** 1241 Maple Bay Rd., Duncan. Experience a Garry Oak meadow bursting with native wildflowers!

Saturday, May 5th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm: *Debunking Garden Myths by Linda Chalker-Scott.* Salvation Army Citadel. This is an absolutely fantastic speaker. For tickets: <http://www.mgabc.org/store>

Saturday, May 12th, 10:00 am to Noon: *Plant your own Hanging Baskets.* Victoria City Parks. Beacon Hill. For Registration phone 250-361-0732.

Saturday May 12th and Sunday, May 13th. *Victoria Conservatory of Music Garden Tour.*

Interesting Courses at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific:

Phone 250-479-6162 to register for any of the courses listed below or visit hcp.ca for more information.

Sunday, April 29th, 11:00 to 1:00: *Resilient Gardens for a Changing Coastal Climate.* Linda Gilkeson will teach you how to design adaptable fruit and vegetable gardens, how to help your plants through “weird weather” and what you need to know to become a resilient gardener. HCP members \$25. Non-members \$35.

Sunday, April 29th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm: *Pollination 101.* Linda Gilkeson will review plant biology and the different types of flowers. Pollination agents and environmental factors such as temperature that can affect fertilization will also be explained. Learn why some plants don't fruit, how to attract pollinators, how to hand pollinate and how to avoid cross-pollination to make sure the seeds you save is “true” to the variety. HCP members \$25 Non-members \$35.

Saturday, May 12th, 1:00 to 3:00 pm: *Container Vegetable Gardening.* Linda Petite will teach you how to grow a wide variety of beautiful vegetables in containers and how to utilize vertical gardening to save space and maximize yield. The session will cover: how to start and maintain a container garden, which soil mixes and fertilizers work best, the do's and don'ts of watering, how to choose the best varieties and how to trellis your favourite vining vegetables. Take home veggie starts. HCP members \$30. Non-members \$42.

Sunday, May 19th, 1:00 to 3:00 pm: *How to Grow Roses.* Rose grower Cathy Johnson will begin with the history and myths that swirl around this most beloved of garden flowers. Then it's on to the practical advice on how to care for roses throughout the year. She will also cover how to choose the perfect rose for a particular site, how to plant, prune and generally maintain the plants using an organic approach to pests and diseases. HCP members \$25. Non-members \$35.

