



Mill Bay Garden Club May 2012

NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgnewsletter@gmail.com



OPEN GARDENS 2012

Members of the Mill Bay and Cowichan Valley Garden clubs have once again joined forces to provide gardens that you can view. Below is an early list of people who have so kindly agreed to open their gardens to us. The dates and times when these gardens are available for viewing are below along with addresses and directions.

Saturday, May 19th, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Bill Herring's Open Garden

3231 Kilipi Rd., 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.

Directions:

From the Trans Canada Highway, go east on Kilmalu Rd. (a PetroCan station is on the west side of the highway)

North on Telegraph Rd.

After the gravel pit, turn right on Pemberton

At the end of Pemberton turn left on Kilipi.

It is then the second driveway on your right.

Sunday, June 10th, 1PM – 4PM

Gardens of Ali Morris, Carmen Stanek and Barb Kohlman

See directions on the next page. Enjoy and note the additional garden tours listed near the back of the newsletter.

Next Meeting May 22nd

The May meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on **Tuesday, May 22nd 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 (250-743-6551) or Elaine (250-743-0965) 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.

May Speaker

The subject for our May speaker will be gardening with native plants. Please see Cliff's report for details on the speaker.

OPEN GARDENS 2012

Sunday June 10: - 1pm to 4pm

Garden of Ali Morris - 751 Satellite Park Dr, Cobble Hill

Ali's garden is a well established series of garden rooms containing extremely interesting plant material. Ali chooses her plants for foliage, flower and structure features.

From the Trans-Canada Hwy in Cobble Hill:

1. Turn east on Fisher Road (a Rona Building Supply Centre is on the West side of the highway)
2. Go about 1.7km and turn right onto Telegraph Rd.
3. Take the 2nd left onto Aros Rd.
4. Take the 2nd left onto Lefran Rd.
5. Take the 1st right onto Satellite Park Dr.
6. Destination will be on the left

Garden of Carmen Stanek - 3237 Kilipi Rd, Cobble Hill

Carmen's is a garden being developed, a work in progress.

From the Trans-Canada Hwy in Cobble Hill:

1. Turn east on Fisher Road (a Rona Building Supply Centre is on the West side of the highway)
2. Go about 1.7km and turn right onto Telegraph Rd.
3. Turn left on LaFortune, go about 1 km
4. Turn right on Kilipi Rd.
5. Destination is on the left

Garden of Barb Kohlman - 1121 Cheeke, Cobble Hill

This garden has been established over the last 10-15 years and contains many landscaping experiments including a bog garden.

From the Trans-Canada Hwy in Cobble Hill:

1. Turn east on Fisher Road (a Rona Building Supply Centre is on the West side of the highway)
2. Go about 1.7km and turn right onto Telegraph Rd.
3. Take the first right on to Cheeke Rd.
4. The garden is a very short distance up on the right.

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

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

Thank you very much to the Club members who have supported our bus tour to Port Alberni. I am pleased to tell you that we are sold out. For those members who are going on the tour, don't forget to be at the Duncan Mall parking lot by 7:45 am on June 24 as the bus will leave at 8:00 am sharp. For those having a pick up at the end of the day, the estimated time of arrival back at the Duncan Mall is 6:30 pm. Remember to take a bag lunch and something to drink. Oh, you may also want to make sure that you have some cash to buy plants during our last stop.

May 22nd Brag Table Theme:
"May? Oui!"

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. The bonus is a prize awarded randomly to one of the monthly participants in this program. If you have never participated, give it a fling, be it flower, vegetable or fungus.



Mock-Orange – Philadelphus lewisii

Kitchen Duties

Diane Regan, Kitchen

1 litre of 2% Milk:

Hennie Roke

Cookies / Goodies:

Janice Moseley

Donna Temei

Jeanne Aten

Kitchen Helpers:

Lila & John Harwick

Set Up / Clean Up:

Valerie Robinson

Janice Rose

Joy Story

Susan Petersen

President's Report

Ajay Oppelaar

I love this time of year, seeing everything grow, the bulbs blooming, the ornamental trees putting on their too brief but stunning show, the hostas doubling in size in just a few days. Winter is just a memory and now we look forward to another great summer here in our sunny valley.

At our Executive meeting last night we voted on a number of motions, many of them to do with the charitable donations that we will put forth at the AGM next month on June 26th. This year we have four organizations that we will submit for your approval, three being recipients of funds from the MBGC, and one recipient targeted specifically by the Community Flower and Garden Show committee.

The Flower and Garden show promises to be another success this year, thanks to the hard work of all those involved. For those of you who have signed up to volunteer on either of the two days, you will be contacted soon and notified of a volunteer appreciation dinner where you will receive your assignment and nametags.

Elaine is still looking for more plant donations for our plant sale held at the show. Outside of membership fees, this plant sale is the main fundraiser for our club and is essential for our financial well being.

The club library has a number of books that we will offer for sale at the show as well, and will be a great way to build up your personal collection of gardening books while benefiting the club.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Tuesday June 26th at the home of Mary Gale. Mark your calendar for this important event that marks the end of our current season and welcomes the summer season. Our traditional potluck dinner will take place at 2895 Church Way (parallel to the TCH at Kilmalu Road). Plan to arrive for set-up between 5-5:30 p.m., dinner to begin at 6.

Please bring everything you will need such as plates and glassware, utensils, napkins, wine, chairs, festive garden hats. We will provide tables, tea, coffee and prizes. Bring your favorite potluck dish, whether it be a main course, side dish or (always a popular!) dessert. We recommend using recyclable/reusable foil pans as opposed to your cherished serving platter or casserole dish. These sometimes get left behind and we spend our summer trying to hunt down the owner of these items. Also it's a good idea to mark the handles of your serving utensils with your name on masking tape and if you do bring a glass or china dish or platter please mark the bottom in the same way.

The Executive has decided to consider new members for April/May/June as guests and will not be asking that dues for the remainder of the year be paid.

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Alaska Violet – Viola langsdorfii

Executive Members

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Ajay Oppelaar

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arkengardens@gmail.com

Vice-President:

Cliff Stainsby

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Treasurer:

Gale McIntyre

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Secretary:

Arelene Dench

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Past-President:

Barb Kohlman

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Kitchen:

Diane Regan

250-743-7314

di_regan@hotmail.com

President's Report - Continued

Those of you who are new the last few months of our season are all invited to participate as regular members, though at the AGM, you will not be entitled to vote. If you do wish to vote, you may certainly pay the dues for this year, to which we will say thank you!

There was some concern expressed to me at our last meeting that the ratio of food production speakers versus all other garden topics was too high. We discussed this in committee at great length and here's the scoop: we will strive to meet the interests of all our members. Some members tend to be more focused on food production while other members tend to be more interested in ornamental plants, trees, overall gardening and landscape topics.

This spring we did have a larger number of food focused speakers, but the upcoming season for next year so far has very few, only one in 5 confirmed upcoming speakers will be on food production topics. We hope all of you will continue to enjoy our speakers program and feel free to talk to Cliff or myself about topics and speakers you would like to see added to the list.

In addition we will look at adding a Q&A to the website and perhaps the newsletter though that could be redundant. Many of the questions on food production can be dealt with in this way in conjunction with our monthly Q&A at regular meetings.

We will be having a spring clean up party for the Community Hall gardens on Sunday May 27th from 1-3 p.m. Please help us get the job done by showing up with your gardening tools, buckets and gloves. We always have a good time as a group at these work parties and the more that show up to help the quicker we're done. Also bring some deer proof perennial divisions if you've got them as well as ornamental grasses to add to the Millennium Garden outside the front door. A donation of a rhodo would be great as well; we've lost one that was there.

See you all at the meeting on May 22nd, the speaker is terrific and highly relevant to our way of gardening here in the South Cowichan Valley and we expect a big crowd.

Executive Members – Cont.

Historian:

Mary Gale
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no email

Membership:

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Newsletter Layout & Photos:

Kerry Davis



Sea Blush – Plectritis congesta and Broad-leaved Stonecrop – Sedum spathulifolium

Vice President's Report

Cliff Stainsby

Anyone willing to stand for the Executive positions of Membership Secretary or Webmaster are encouraged to contact me by email (cliffas@shaw.ca) or by phone (250 743-7483). The position of Newsletter Editor is also vacant, but we do have one nominee. If this position interests you please forward your name. Executive meetings are held only once a month - on the second Tuesday of each month. They are a lot of fun, relaxed, and everyone helps out. We need to get this sorted soon as the AGM is in June. All positions are open for nominations, but current members for all other positions have indicated they are willing to serve another term.

Patricia Johnson will be our speaker this month. Pat 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.

Invasive Plants

Stop the Invasion. Invasive plants are everyone's concern.

(The following article, written by Julianne Leekie, Invasive Species Council of BC and published in the 2012 Edition of *Green for Life* has been abbreviated to use in this newsletter.

To halt the progress of invasive plants to new areas, the expert knowledge and leadership of gardeners and landscapers is vital.

What makes certain plant invasive?

Invasive plants often cause economic and environmental harm because they are aggressive competitors for available nutrients, water and sunlight. Which plants are invasive species depends on where you live, so make sure you check with a trustworthy resource to determine which plants are invasive in your area. The simplest way to do this is to contact one of the 13 regional committees across B.C. that are working hard to reduce the negative impacts of invasive plants and species. (www.bcinvasives.ca)

How do we get rid of invasive plants?

Some examples of plants of concern in B.C. include Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*). Knowing how to recognize the invasive plants growing in your neighbourhood is a great way you can begin to help prevent their spread. We encourage you to report invasive plants (1-888-WEEDSBC), participate in community weed-pulling events, and support local botanical gardens, nurseries and gardening clubs that promote, display and sell non-invasive plants. We welcome you to join our growing membership. The Invasive Species Council of BC activities and events educate people about invasive species. For more information or to become a members (at no cost) visit www.bcinvasives.ca.

Grow me Instead – improved new version.

A second version of the popular *Grow Me Instead* booklet is now available. This new version has been expanded to cover all areas of the province and includes profiles of 27 of B.C.'s most invasive plants and five recommended alternatives for each one. Keep an eye out for this publication at nursery and garden outlets across B.C.

Editor's note. If you do review the *Grow me Instead* booklet, be careful to note the Latin names for the unwanted plants. As an example, in the index Daphne is listed as an unwanted plant but when you review the section on that plant what is really unwanted is *Daphne laureola*. There are many beautiful non-invasive Daphnes that one can grow in their garden.

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.

2012 Community Flower and Garden Show

Heather Jenkins for Heather Gibbins, Chair

On Saturday, June 16, 2012 the Mill Bay Garden Club presents the 65th. Annual Community Flower and Garden Show which is a great annual event of interest to all. This year's show is open to gardeners of all ages and experience. The show includes over 60 classes from Cut Flowers through Seedlings, Potted Plants, and Vegetables & Herbs to Flower Arrangements. There are two new classes to encourage children to become involved: one where you can grow your own Swiss Card plant (some children may have picked up supplies at the February Seedy Saturday) and the other an arrangement of smelly flowers.

Pick up a show program with the list of classes at Buckerfield's, Thrifty Foods in the Floral Department, Laughing Llama, Dinter Nursery or at the Mill Bay Garden Club meeting. They are also available on our web site at www.millbaygardenclub.com.

For the early birds, the show starts with the Rotary Pancake Breakfast at 8:00am, with the grounds and hall opening at 9:00. Included in the show is a large Silent auction and over 25 garden related vendors. The Master Gardeners' will be here to help solve your garden queries, the Lake Bay Hill Ladies Auxiliary will be serving their Strawberry Teas and the Mill Bay Garden Club will have a wide array of plants on its sale table.

This is one of our highlights of the year. It is so easy to enter: just wander through your garden the evening before and pick your best flowers or vegetables. Check the exhibitors' brochure and enter the correct number of flowers or vegetables for that class.

Please come and show your support at the Cobble Hill Hall, Watson Ave.

June 2012 Gardening Tips

Barb Kohlman, Past President.

- Time to sow warm season beans, squash, melons, peppers, cucumbers and basil.
- Feed and water containers on a regular schedule (including perennials kept in pots).
- Stake tall plants NOW that may fall over as they get taller.
- Check roses for signs of black spot (definitely on mine already). Pick off and destroy diseased leaves.
- Remove moisture, sunlight, nutrient robbing weeds from your garden.
- Mow lawns leaving 2 ½ inches high to shade the roots and allow enough foliage for photosynthesis. Water less often but deeply to encourage strong roots.
- Fertilize bulbs that have finished flowering to encourage good bloom for next season, and leave foliage till it dies back naturally.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs that are now finished blooming.
- And have a glass of wine and enjoy your garden. Mine is looking lush and happy from the cooler spring and adequate moisture.

Library Report

Janice Rose, Librarian

Members are asked to return all books to our May meeting as this will be the last time we have access to the library cart until September. If anyone would like to borrow a book for the summer please speak to Janice Rose to make special arrangements.

How to display flowers for the Community Flower and Garden Show on June 15th and 16th

Ajay Oppelaar

There are many factors that flower show judges consider when assigning points to each flower or leaf/frond that is displayed. This quick review will give you a few guidelines, but for a full understanding please refer to the BC Council of Garden Clubs Judging Standards handbooks that Janice Rose has in our library (4 copies).

Flowers are generally judged on 5 separate categories that can add up to a total of 100 points. Usually considered are:

- Condition 25 points
- Form 30
- Colour 15
- Stems or Stalks 15
- Uniformity 15

These 5 judging categories differ by class and group. Delphiniums are judged on a greater number of categories including but not limited to spike length, flower spike symmetry, foliage, and general perfection.

Flowers with a scent are judged on that basis as well. Roses are judged on balance and proportion, stem and foliage while violets and pansies are judged on belting (margins) and blotch. In general, choose the best looking flowers with a good healthy stem, uniform and well formed freshly opened flower with vibrant colour.

For rhododendrons, there are several different class descriptions: a truss is the flower cluster from a single bud. A spray is a branch of stem with a number of trusses attached. Trusses with a straight stem are more highly rated than those that are not upright and both trusses and sprays need the foliage attached, which is also judged.

Foliage (ferns, hosta, heuchera) will be judged on the three leaves per entry being as close to identical as possible (uniformity). Markings the same, size of leaf, length of stem, thickness of stem. Colour, condition and form also are taken into consideration, though a truly spectacular hosta that's less uniform could take the lead over another entry that is perfectly uniform but not as special.

Container plants are judged on the form of container as well as over all good health and grooming, bloom (if any) and form.

Vegetables and fruits have a different point score system, with a wide range of maximum points. Taken into consideration though are condition, size and firmness, colour and uniformity.

Cut herbs are judged on again a different range of categories including selection, rarity, and labeling. Potted herbs on number of specimens, neatness of display and naming.

Floral arrangements will be considered under balance, dominance, contrast, rhythm, proportion and scale, also colour, suitable relationship of material, distinction, originality and condition.

Don't be afraid of all the technical aspects of judging. Just follow the descriptions on each of the classes on your show schedule. Pick your best looking flowers and plants, leaves, vegetables, herbs and personal design style and display them to their best advantage. When in doubt, ask the volunteers who are working the show for advice, many will know the answer you're looking for. Give yourself plenty of time to prepare your entries at the hall when you arrive, plan on at least a half hour for 4 to six entries, some of us with numerous class entries may take several hours to groom and display and fill out each entry form. Have fun with it and you'll see that each year you'll feel compelled to enter more and more classes.

Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 24th, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

Moved by Pip, seconded by Janice, that the minutes from the March general meeting be accepted as published in the April newsletter. Carried.

Thanks to kitchen help and set up crew. Signup sheet circulated for next month and for AGM.

Bus Tour Update: Ruby has signup sheet for Port Alberni garden tour. Seventeen seats are still available. Full info. is in newsletter.

Nominating Committee - Pip, Joy and Cliff who will be contacting people who may have put their name forward or who they consider might be a good fit.

Garden Show – every aspect is taken care of. We have a show photographer, Bev Remple, who will create a visual archive. Chairs of each committee are creating job descriptions. Eighteen dozen new vases have been ordered, tablecloths have been ordered. Corylee Fisher was replaced by Jillian Seal Jones who has since had an accident but will continue with Ajay and Monica's help. Proposal for excess money to be donated to local food bank. General membership will vote on this at AGM.

Vice-President- Cliff Stainsby - Traditionally the club has had open gardens during the last half of June, July and August. Need people willing to open their gardens. Contact Cliff by email if you would be willing. Cowichan Valley club will open gardens as well. Schedule will be in newsletter and website.

Treasurer - Gale – Balance as posted is \$ 2109.85

Secretary – Arlene – thanks to Elizabeth Coulter and Barb Kohlman who filled in for four months.

Membership – We welcomed four guests this evening. Prospective new members will be considered guests during April and May and not required to pay dues until the following Sept.

Raffle - Carmen – outlined this evening's prizes.

Plant Sales -Heather– a few plants left and a selection of jams.

Library - Janice – thanks to Anita Gilmore for new book. Please return books at following month's meetings. Thanks to those who do! If you want to keep a book over the summer, you may take it out in May. Two 'Judging Standards' left, most are out. Standards will be printed in next newsletter.

Newsletter – Elaine - Kudos to Kerry Davis for helping make newsletter look so great! Remember Bill's open garden on May 19, speaker at Garth Homer center re the Jardin de Métis, plants are already being delivered to Elaine for Plant Sale, outline of Plant Sales ahead, Cowichan Valley Rhodo show.

Kitchen – Diane – no report

Historian - Mary Gale – three get well cards sent. Let Mary know of anyone who might appreciate a card.

Work parties being set up for those who need help and one for hall as well.

Pip – Webmaster and Membership co-coordinator required.

Monica – silent auction chair, Dot Garbet, not here this evening but Monica reported on the need for donations to silent auction. Should be at least somewhat garden related.

Brag Table with Barb Kohlman - Bulbs and Blooms - heathers, rhodos, daphne, tulips, many varieties of daffodils, leopard's bane, pulmonaria, hyacinth, anemone, osmanthus, camillias, violas, lettuce, cilantro, hellebores, kale, trillium, pulmonaria, spirea, poinsettia, primulas (eight varieties), checkered lily (fritillaria), leucoTHOE, bleeding heart.

Q&A with Bill Herring:

Watch out for tent caterpillars, they have a seven year cycle and look like they will be bad this year. May 19 is Bill's open garden 9:30 to 11:30. Lawn bowling happens during summer on Wed. afternoon at 2 p.m. at Bill's. Bowls are supplied, flat soled shoes required, green has been widened and will be ready by mid- summer. No cost except for cookies and ginger ale. Bill gave away Scarlet runner seed with a 95% germination rate.

Q. Carmen – aged cow manure, what can it be put on? |A. Stack it for twelve months and then use anywhere.

Tonight's Speaker is Joy Story on growing vegetables using permaculture techniques that are labour saving and ecologically sustainable.

Adjourned: 9:00 p.m. Next meeting: May 22, 2012



Oregon Stonecrop – Sedum oreganum

Best of the West: Fall Education Conference

October 20, Nanaimo

Early Bird prices up to June 30, 2012

This conference, in recognition of 30 years of Master Gardeners in BC, is open to the public. The day program includes:

1. Harry Jongerden, Garden Director, VanDusen Botanical Garden “21st. Century Botanical Gardens: Communities for Conservation”
2. Linda Gilkeson, Salt Spring Island, “Common Pests & Diseases on the Coast: Diagnosis & Management Without Pesticides”
3. Cass Turnbull, Seattle. “How to Prune & Renovate the Overgrown Garden”
4. Panel on Growing our own Food.

The price for the day presentation includes a catered lunch and refreshment breaks, plant vendors, an artisan’s market and featured speaker’s books. One can add on to this ticket an evening presentation by Lucy Hardiman on “Full Frontal Gardens: Gone the Lawn.” For more information and to purchase you tickets visit www.mgabc.org.

Plant Sales

'Tis the season of plant sales!

- **Sunday May 20. 9am – noon. Plantaholic Plant Sale. Abkhazi Gardens, Victoria.** For more information visit <http://blogconservancy.bc.ca/properties/vancouver-island-region/abkhazi-garden/garden-events/>.
- **Saturday May 26. Rhodo Show & Sale.** Victoria Rhodo Society. Tillicum Mall. For more information visit www.victoriarhodo.ca/
- **Friday and Saturday, May 25 and 26. Cactus Show & Sale. Hillside Mall. Annual spring event. Victoria Cactus & Succulent Society.** For more information visit www.victoria.cactus-society.org.



Garden Tours

It is not only the season of plant sales, but also the season of garden tours.

1. **Baker's Gardens, 185 Furness Rd., Salt Spring Island. Gardens open Friday & Saturday in May and first two weekends in June. 10am until dark, or by appointment.** This is Ted Baker's garden of Iris fame. It features Iris, Rhodos and Peonies. There are over 300 varieties of Bearded Iris and 100 varieties of Siberian iris so take your camera. Entrance is free and it is a wonderful garden. Ted can be reached at 250-653-4430 or tedebaker@shaw.ca.
2. **Sunday May 27. Ladysmith 15th. Annual Garden Tour. Continental Breakfast 9:00. Self-guided tour 10-4.** Tickets for tour available at Aggie Hall on the day (First Avenue in Ladysmith). All proceeds to support Rotary's good work.
3. **Sunday, June 3 10am – 4 pm. Sooke Secret Garden Tour.** The tickets are \$20 and all proceeds will go to support the Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra. The Tour features various hidden garden delights in the Sooke area. This year it includes 10 gardens: some carefully crafted gardens from Sooke's secret suburbs, a couple of fabulous gardens with remarkable ocean vistas and at least one large acreage of old growth trees and native plants. Throughout the tour, there will be music in several gardens by members of the Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra. In addition, at one of the venues there will be light refreshments available, plant sales and a specialized garden-themed boutique. For more information about the 2012 Tour and ticket availability go to www.sookesecretgardens.com.
4. **Sunday June 5, 10am – 5 pm. Cowichan Family Life Garden Tour.** Join us for a self-guided tour of six beautiful gardens in the Cowichan Valley. Helen Chestnut, Gardener Columnist, Times Colonist, will be joining us for an informal "chat in the garden". Light refreshments available at two gardens. Tickets available at Buckerfields, Volume One Bookstore, Dinter Nusery, Marigold Nursery and Third Addition Gifts and Toys,
5. **Sunday June 24. Cowichan Valley/Mill Bay Garden Clubs combined bus tour.** Bus sold out.



*Satin-Flower -
Sisyrinchium douglasii*

Interesting Courses at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific

Phone 250-479-6162 to register for any of the courses listed below.

- **Saturday May 26 and Sunday May 27. 10-4. Introduction to Cob Building.** Cob is a building material composed of clay, straw and sand and is ideal for any number of garden structures including walls, sheds and benches. The techniques are easily learned and endlessly adaptable. This is a hands-on workshop with Beth Cruise, Executive Director of Canadian Earth Institutes. HCP members \$150 and non-members \$250.
- **Saturday June 9. 1-3pm. Native bees of the Gardens at HCP.** Six different families of bees are found in our area throughout the spring and summer. 70% of our native pollinating bees are ground nesters. Some are not even what you might think of as bees as they are quasi-social. Most are solitary. Come and learn with Gord Hutchings about what plants they visit, their biology, habitat requirements and visit some of their forage areas in the Gardens at HCP. HCP members \$25 and non-members \$35.