



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

JANUARY 2013

**Next Meeting
January 22, 2013**



The January meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on Tuesday, January 22nd at 7 PM at the Mill Bay Community League Hall - 1001 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road.

The doors open at 6:30 pm 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.

JANUARY SPEAKER:

Pip Woodcock

"What is the link between Floriade 2012 in Holland, Todmorden in the UK and Cowichan Bay?" Pip will talk about her trip to these places last October.

GO GREEN

Purchase a permanent MBGC name tag from Gale McIntyre for only \$10 cash!

January Brag Table Theme: WHAT'S UP?

With plant and flower identification and commentary provided 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 of your house. The bonus is a prize awarded randomly to one of the monthly participants in this program. If you've never participated, give it a fling, be it flower, vegetable or fungus

January Kitchen Duties:

Dianne Regan

1 litre of 2% milk: Tracy Morris

Cookies/ Goodies: Sharon Pettersson,
Penny Jones, Laurie Sale

Kitchen Helpers: Mary-Ellen Deuling,
Angie Stanton

Set up / Clean Up: Bernie Juurlink,
Joy Story, Barb Juurlink

Remember to bring your mug!

President's Report

Ajay Oppelaar

Fingers crossed, but winter is looking pretty mild so far. No major snowfall, no winter damage to prized plants and now bulb flowers and Hellebores are beginning to stir and send up some foliage and flowers.

The new year always sees an increase in club activities and our liability insurance through the BC Council of Garden Clubs is paid up for the year. This insurance covers us for all meetings and shows, garden tours, bus tours and field trips, at the cost of \$1 per member plus \$37 in administrative fees. It might not seem like much, but \$1 is 10% of each membership paid. It is a large cost and we're lucky to have Elaine Scott and her crew of hard workers who run the club plant sale at the Community Flower and Garden show, which helps offset expenses such as this.

Several important events are in the works for the second half of our season. The Cobble Hill Farmers Institute will host its annual Seedy Saturday on March 9th beginning at 10AM. We always have a table at this giant event where we will hand out club information for those interested in membership. We generally sign up 10-15 new members at SS. We also hand out information about our Community Flower and Garden Show. A few extra bodies are always welcome to help man the table and talk to show attendees about the club. It's a great way to meet the vendors and have access to choice plants and seeds before the crowds begin and at the end for closeout prices.

Information about our Community Flower and Garden Show can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Please consider joining the planning committee to help make this year's event as successful as it was last year with its record breaking numbers. Thanks to Heather Gibbins and her crew for all the hard work that goes into pulling off this important club tradition.

We're still looking for a person or two who would like to work with the good folks at the Cowichan Valley Garden Club on planning another joint bus tour. Please contact me if you have a bit of spare time over the next 5 months to help us plan this popular event.

We need to start looking at seating a nominating committee to fill the seats that will be open on next year's Executive Board and Committee. I will be finishing up my term as club President and

(Continued on page 3)



President's report cont'd:

several other key positions will also require filling. If you're interested in joining either the Executive or the Committee please contact myself or Cliff. This is really an important function, and an opportunity to have the satisfaction of helping to keep secure this club which is such an important aspect of many people's lives.

And finally, speaking of the end of my term of President, it is considered tradition for the outgoing President to host the Annual General Meeting, this year on Tuesday June 25th. The rest of the Executive and Committee decided that indeed Tom and I would be hosting the AGM this year. One less thing for us to have to worry about...

I hope to see you all at the January meeting on the 22nd.

Notes From Our Library

Janice Rose

From your friendly MBGC Librarian

A huge thank you to all the conscientious garden club members who return books on time and make a special effort to get them back to me when they are unable to attend the next meeting. Five new books have been added to our extensive collection and I am looking forward to circulating them on January 22. They include two by Eliot Coleman who has come highly recommended: "Organic Vegetables From Your Home Garden All Year Long" and his "Winter Harvest Handbook". We also have "The 100 Mile Diet: A Year Of Local Eating" by Alisa Smith and The Rodale Book of Composting: Easy Methods for Every Gardener" by Grace Gershuny. Finally, I picked up a little gem from Lee Valley called "Garden Sense" by Roy Jonsson. It is filled with common sense ideas about soil, compost, irrigation, pruning and shearing, propagation and so much more.



Membership Chair Report: Sandra Goth

Many thanks to all of those who renewed their membership and welcome to our new members. We have near 100 members now. However, we are missing some postal codes. Unfortunately the New Membership form does not request those little wonders of letters and numbers that make our postal service as stellar as it is, therefore, if you are a new member please email Sandra with your postal code or drop by the table at our January meeting when I will have my trusty Membership List.

Wishing all of you warmth in this winter season and if you have any extra please send it my way as I have been cold since returning from Edmonton on December 12th where the Northern Lights were beautiful and the temperature was minus 18 degrees. I am Catholic and would much rather burn than freeze for my sins.

Gardening Tips

Barb Kohlman, Past President

Tips February 2013

Remove the leaves from *Galanthus nivalis* (snowdrops), they are poking up their heads and if you have a warm garden may already be blooming. They may be lifted and divided right after flowering and they like to be “crowded” when replanting.

Prune woody plants when weather warms up at the end of February—as they are still dormant. But not the roses---wait till the Forsythia blooms.

Feed rhubarb and berry plants. I like a liquid organic fertilizer.

Throw a handful of Epsom salts on the root area of your rhodos and other evergreen shrubs. This offers them some magnesium to help green up the leaves.

Remove all that winter debris and cut your grasses down now---before new growth really starts.

Order seeds if you haven't already, and start them under glass or under lights ---Full Circle seeds in Sooke is a local source.

Stay off of your soil until it warms a bit more---especially if you have a wet garden.

Prune summer-flowering shrubs that bloom on this year's wood. E.g. hardy fuchsia and butterfly bush.

Plant new bush and cane fruits and prune existing ones. Feed with well-rotted compost.

Protect new growth from those pesky rabbits – hanging metal baskets turned upside down over plants work very well.





Community Flower and Garden Show

Saturday, June 15, 2013

Plans are ramping up for this year's Community Flower and Garden Show, held at the Cobble Hill Farmers Institute Hall. For those of you who are new to the club, this is one of the largest annual events in our region and aside from membership fees, the largest source of revenue for our club. This multi-faceted show includes a silent auction and an outdoors sales programme featuring plants and garden related items from our own club and from local vendors. The highlight of the show is the competitive flower show judged by the Vancouver Island Horticultural Judges Group. Hundreds of dollars in prize money is awarded to participants and the silent auction brings in thousands of dollars.

The first planning committee meeting will be on January 28th, 7PM at the home of show chairperson Heather Gibbins. Contact Heather for more information.

An important aspect of the show is the children's programme and we're asking that you put on your thinking caps in helping us come up with ideas. We also need extra bodies to help bring this programme to the area schools and do some outreach with our local school children, who are of course the ultimate future of our club.

We need the help of all our members to keep this important community event a viable success in our community. It's a great way to get to know other club members and make new friends! We will be circulating sign-up sheets at our regular meetings to fill all the positions available for set up and day of show help.

Mill Bay Garden Club

November 27, 2012 Minutes

By Arlene Dench

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by Cliff Stainsby.

Update on Ajay. Motion to accept last month's minutes. Moved by Pip, seconded by Elaine. No discussion. Carried.

Thanks to this evening's kitchen crew. Reminder given to those who volunteered to help at Christmas party.

Any discussion of news letter? Very nicely done.

Christmas party at Mill Bay Hall, Dec. 4. Set up crew at 4:30, everyone else welcome at 5:30, giving people time to set up their table. Dinner at six pm. Turkeys, ham and mousse provided. Everyone to bring a pot luck dish. Garden related gifts for ten dollars. Santa is coming. Donations asked for food bank. Bring own dishes and cutlery, cups, glasses, non alcoholic beverage and don't forget centerpieces. Discussion around formalizing what people bring. Decided against.

Our guest this evening is Sandra Stevenson who will speak after break as usual.

President's Report - Ajay - no report.

Treasurer's Report - Gale - \$2489.74 before bills.

Membership Report - 8 renewals tonight.

Secretary - Arlene - nothing to report.

New members - Gale - 5 new members this evening and 8 renewals.

Flower and Garden Show - Janice - first meeting of committee will be in January. Contact Heather Gibbins directly. Heather's phone number is in the newsletter.

Raffle - Carmen - lots available to be won this evening including statue donated by Dustin.

Plant sales - Heather - lots of houseplants this week.

Newsletter - Mary V - away.

Library- Janice - we have had a donation of four boxes of beautiful magazines. Take some home, keep or bring back. Donations would be accepted. Have bought three new books.

Kitchen - Dianne - no report.

History - Mary - no report except for a reminder to let her know when cards should be sent to people who are ill, bereaved, hospitalized, etc.

Members forum - Julia asking if there was any possibility of a donation of a mature rhodo or evergreen, evergreen shrubs. Suggested that Used Cowichan has interesting garden section.

Brag Table - Barb - pieris, bergenia, heathers, hebe, holly, barbaris, heavenly bamboo, grasses, huckleberry, viburnum, calicarpa profusion, everlastings, holly, euonomis, stinky iris, gunnera, maple, dogwood, mushrooms, cedars, pine, fir, moss, climbing hydrangea, tree peony, mullein, magnolia, phlomis, hazelnut, dogwood red stemmed, willow, asparagus, grapes ornamental.

Q and A -Joy Storey standing in for Bill Herring. Brought copy of her magazine which is on sale. Plant shallots this month, easier than onions. Plant on shortest day of year and harvest on the

November 27th minutes cont'd

longest. Separate, poke into ground, mulch. Store very well. Keep better if planted now. Available at community garden store by the Garage in Duncan. Plant not too deep, but do mulch. Cover tips. Not recommended to plant anything at this time of year, protect garlic and winter crops, root crops should be covered, layer with leaf mulch. Leave artichokes, protect. They like it dry. Watch insects especially slugs. Early broc covered with aphids. June planted ones look fine, likely to winter well. Growing organic sprouts: place in mason jar, screen, screw lid on, soak for 24 hrs, drain, rinse twice, drain, great source of food. Can grain be sprouted? Yes. Done on the flat. Rinse daily, at least once. Try different types of seeds.

Mulch fruit trees heavily. Cardboard around trees to get rid of grass, then mulch. Pull back from trunk. Tent caterpillars lay eggs on branches, check trees for casings. Take them off, can be iridescent in color. Summer pruning will enable you to find casings. Dormant oil can kill beneficial insects. Organic classification has been removed in some countries.

Speaker followed.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.



Cards

by Mary Gale

If you know of someone in the club who is sick, or in hospital, or is dying, please let Mary Gale know and she will send a card on behalf of the Mill Bay Garden Club.

Ride Sharing

If you need a ride to and from MBGC meetings, please send your name, phone number and exact address to Mary Vandenberg at mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com. For privacy issues we will post your request in name and general location only (i.e. close to Kilmalu and Telegraph Roads). When a club member responds to the request, we will then provide that person with your phone number and exact address.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Cowichan Valley Garden Club Annual Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale

Saturday April 13th, 2013 - 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

(Please note change of venue)

Duncan United Church, 246 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC.

Entry fee which includes hot beverage- \$2.00

Refreshments available by donation

Flower Show Entries can be made on Friday April 12 from - 4:30 - to 9: pm at The United Church.

Please email Esther Craig at mailto: glenest@shaw.ca for further information.

[Web site for further information http://cowichanvalleygardenclub.com](http://cowichanvalleygardenclub.com)

Imagining an Acre: Meditations on a Twenty-Year Garden

Project Monday, January 21st and January 28th 2:00 – 4:00 pm

2 sessions/\$22 Code: ISC-16363

These sessions will illustrate the evolution of a local property, and discuss the underlying principles inspired by several garden cultures, especially the English, Scottish, and Irish picturesque traditions. It is an experiment in Slow Gardening.

Presenter: Timothy Brownlow

The talks take place in The Island Savings Centre.

To register for this program, call 250-748-7529 or come to the ticket centre at the Island Savings Centre. For further information about Elder College, please call Jennifer Carmichael at 250-746-0414 or send a message to elderc@islandnet.com.

The Gardens at HCP
505 Quayle Road
250-479-6162
gardeninfo@hcp.ca

Rainwater Management

Saturday February 2nd 1 pm to 4 pm

Ken Nentwig, the educational director of CANARM- the Canadian Association for Rainwater Management, will teach: what is rainwater management, why is it important and how can an individual homeowner benefit and make a difference in the Greater Victoria Area. Catchment, storage and the uses of rainwater for irrigation, car washing, fountains & ponds will be discussed & demonstrated. Sample systems will be displayed and the pros and cons discussed. Materials required: a calculator, pen and paper.

HCP Members \$25.00

Non-HCP Members \$35.00

The HCP offers many other courses. Visit their website at <http://hcp.ca/courses/>

VIU's Continuing Education Cowichan: <http://www.cc.viu.ca/ce/>

[Beekeeping In The Warm Land \(HGBK 001\)\[Spring 2013\]](#)

[Berry Crops And Tree Fruits For The Home Garden \(HGBC 001\)\[Spring 2013\]](#)

[Designing Your Successful and Sustainable Food Garden \(HGFG 001\)\[Spring 2013\]](#)

[Growing And Pruning Fruit Trees \(HGPP 001\)\[Spring 2013\]](#)

[Landscape Integrated Pest Management Pesticide Certification \(QPES 002\)\[Spring 2013\]](#)

[The Chicken and The Egg: Small Flock Management - Egg Layers \(HGCE 001\)\[Spring 2013\]](#)

[The Chicken and the Egg: Small Flock Management - Meat Birds \(HGCM 002\)\[Spring 2013\]](#)

"The Hardy Plant Group are having their 2013 Elizabeth England lecture on February 17th at 3:00 at the Salvation Army Citadel, 4030 Douglas, Victoria. The speaker this year is Chris Beardshaw, a well known British landscape architect, award winning garden designer, popular broadcaster, author and a garden writer who is currently writing a monthly column for The English Garden magazine. His topic will be "100 Plants that Almost Changed the World" Tickets are \$15 and available at all Dig This locations, VHS and Hardy Plant Group meetings and at the door."

The Victoria Horticultural Society | **HARDY PLANT GROUP** 2013 Elizabeth England Lecture

Presents



That ^{almost!} Changed the World

"...some of the unusual stories and relationships that humans have had with plants throughout history and the consequences of those relationships. The stories are a mixture of light-hearted and entertaining, sometimes bizarre and occasionally shocking!"
CB

with

CHRIS BEARDSHAW

Well-known British landscape architect, award winning garden designer and popular broadcaster, author and garden writer who is currently writing a monthly column for *The English Garden* magazine.

**Sunday, February 17th
3:00 PM**

**Salvation Army Citadel
4030 Douglas Street
(north off Mckenzie Avenue)**

Tickets \$15

Available at VHS and Hardy meetings,
Dig This stores and at the door.

Northeast England and Scotland Garden Tour

Western Garden Club –

I am excited to advise you that we have a fabulous Garden Tour confirmed .

We are using Rabbits for the land and we only need 10 participants –maximum group size will be 16 – so a nice intimate group

Price point is \$4795.00 – single supplement \$950.00 –

I have the people from the west on British Airways flights – into Manchester on May 18 – out of Glasgow on June 02 – I am happy to help organize flights from anywhere in Canada!

Hosted by Eryl Morton a well know garden designer here in Victoria – she has been hosting tours since 1999

3 nights York, 4 nights Edinburgh, 3 night Grantown on Spey, 3 nights Oban and 2 nights Ayr

Included Sightseeing –

Harlow Castle, York Gate Garden, Castle Howard, Belsay Hall, Alnwick Castle, Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, Landford Ueda, Royal Yacht Britannia, Edinburgh Castle, Blair Castle, Glenfarclas Distillery, Balmoral Castle and Gardens, the battlefield of Culloden, Cawdor Castle, Loch Ness, Isle of Mull, Torosay Castle Garden, Crarae Garden, Loch Lomand, Glenarn Garden at Rhu, Castle Kennedy, Stanraer and Logan Botanic Garden, Culzean Castle and many more public and private gardens.

Do you think you have anyone that would be interested? I currently have 5 so halfway there...

Let me know

Janice dalziel, mcc | travel and cruise consultant | merit travel group

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