



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

FEBRUARY 2013

Next Meeting
February 26th , 2013

The February meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on Tuesday, February 26th 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.

FEBRUARY SPEAKER:

**Richard Fraser from
Thimble Farms**

**His topic will be Hellebores and he
will be bringing plants to sell!**

**Richard's talk will be in the first
half of the meeting, so he can
make the ferry back to Saltspring.**



February Brag Table Theme:

FEBRUARY FOLLIES

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

February Kitchen Duties:

Dianne Regan

1 litre of 2% milk: Julie McNally

Cookies/ Goodies: Betty Underwood,
Mary-Ellen Deuling, Romey Pringle

Kitchen Helpers: Celine Eggleston,
Lorraine Little

Set up / Clean Up: Joy Story, Pip Woodcock,
Sharon Pettersson

Remember to bring your mug!



President's Report

Ajay Oppelaar

On the coattails of the 'Mixing it up in the Urban Garden' event that our own Master Gardeners helped plan and execute, I attended a meeting of Island Garden Club Presidents at Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney on Saturday January 26th. In attendance were the Presidents from eight Vancouver Island clubs: Nanaimo Horticultural Society, Peninsula, Gordon Head, Western, Royal Oak, Salt Spring Island, Cowichan Valley and Mill Bay.

A broad range of topics were covered and we plan to meet again in the near future. It was agreed that the garden tour programme we developed with the Cowichan Valley Club could be expanded to include all eight clubs. This would open up what might be dozens of area gardens for us all to view, from Nanaimo to Victoria and Sidney.

Our Executive and Committee discussed this at our February meeting and it was thought to be a good idea. When there is more information available about the programme as it develops, we'll post notices in the newsletter and discuss it at regular meetings if there are questions.

I was blown away when, at the first planning meeting for the Community Flower and Garden Show to be held on June 14th and 15th, a total of fourteen people showed up. In addition, three more members who weren't able to attend have committed to adding their efforts. Heather Gibbins and her crew produced an amazing show last year with record totals. This year looks to be starting off on the same foot and we'll start circulating sign-up sheets at this month's meeting to fill all the volunteer positions for the two day event. Last year more than 40 members put in time on either or both of the show dates and the work was accomplished in an amazingly quick and organized manner.

For you newer members, this is our big event of the year and a great way for you to get more involved in the club and community. There are still openings within the committee if you are interested in becoming involved and didn't make it to the first meeting. The next meeting will be on Monday March 4th at the home of Bev Rempel. Bev and Pauline Dueck will be building and maintaining a Facebook page for the show and will give a short workshop on using social media during the meeting. Those in attendance should bring either a laptop or Ipad if available.

We still need someone to help coordinate our bus tour to Sooke with the Cowichan Valley club contact. Please step up and help us out, otherwise the tour might not happen. It's not a big job, a few hours of your time is all that's needed.

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President's report cont'd:

A big topic of discussion at the Executive and Committee meeting was the number of seats on the board and committee that need to be filled for next season. Once seated, the nominating committee will need to find candidates for Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Flower and Garden Show Chair. If you are interested in a higher level of involvement in the club, here's your opportunity! These positions won't take up much of your time and its fun too. I've made many friends during my 4 years of involvement on the Executive and we've had many laughs as we worked together in guiding the club into the future.

We are pleased to again be participating in the Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday on March 9th from 10am thru 2pm. This is a great opportunity to show our presence in the community, hand out promotional materials for our Community Flower and Garden Show and to sign up new members. Stop by the club table and say hi to Cliff Stainsby, Mary-Ellen Dueling, Julia Boles, Janice Rose, Mary Gale and Arlene Dench.

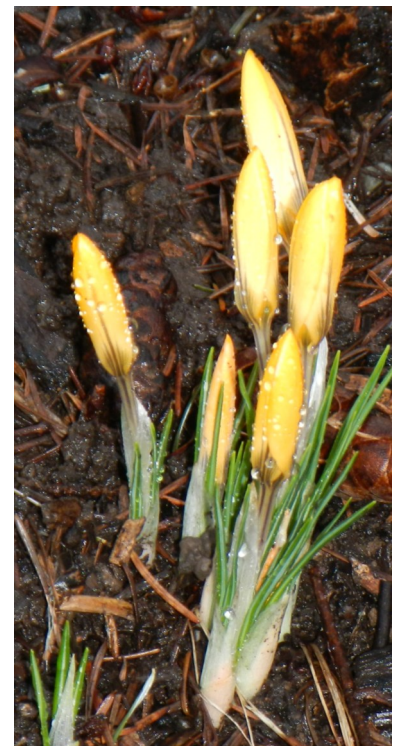
Your Membership Chair Sandra will be revising and updating our new members welcome letter, and we'll also be sending new members a welcoming email in the future. Though I try, it's hard to get around to each new member personally and welcome them myself. Our social break time and clean up after meetings can be hectic, but please remember that I'm always available to all of you for questions and concerns. If you don't get a chance to engage me at a meeting, feel free to phone or email me.

Notes From The Library

Janice Rose - your friendly MBGC Librarian

Christmas continues at the MBGC. We have so many new books that will tempt everyone from our newest to our most experienced gardeners. We have three new books on growing fruit: **Growing fruit with a Smile** by Nikolay Kurdyumov, **The Fruit Grower's Bible** by Lewis Hill and Leonard Perry and **The Fruit Expert** by Dr. D.G. Hessayson. We have a fabulous book called **Pruning and Training** by the American Horticultural Society, a book called **The Book Of Kale** which also includes delicious recipes. We have two books by Rosalind Creasy: **Edible Landscaping** and **Recipes from the Garden** (we have to know how to cook all this produce), and **two new books on composting**. We also received **The Winter Harvest Handbook** by Eliot Coleman and Dr. Linda Gilkeson's **Natural Insect, Weed and Disease Control**.

Members are again asked to please return books to each monthly meeting so that others may borrow them.



Gardening Tips

Barb Kohlman, Past President

March 2013

- ◆ Remove leaves that were protecting beds over the winter---add them to your compost. Use them to mix with grass clippings once you start to mow.
- ◆ Prune woody plants now—while they are still dormant. Blooming before June 1st prune now---blooming after June 1st , prune after they bloom. Roses---wait till the Forsythia blooms.
- ◆ Can still assess your garden for winter interest and decide where you need to add an evergreen or something of interest for next year.
- ◆ Mark the positions of your spring bulbs after flowering for future reference.
- ◆ Divide and relocate perennials as they emerge from the soil.
- ◆ Start lettuce and early greens in cold frames.
- ◆ Tuck cool-weather spring flowers like primroses, winter pansies, *Cyclamen coum* into containers to brighten up dull days.
- ◆ 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 roses and other evergreen shrubs. This offers them some magnesium to help green up the leaves.



Membership Chair Report:

Sandra Goth

A belated Happy Family Day to one and all.

New members continue to sign up. If you are new, could you let us know what attracted you to our Club? We always appreciate knowing what we are doing well and where we could improve. Please email me.

There are many ways of getting more involved. We will be publishing a list of volunteer opportunities from time to time in the newsletter. There was a great showing for the garden show organization meeting. Thank you all for your support of the Club's endeavors. New members can always sign up 20 minutes before the meeting and during the break.

I am off to the prairies for grandchildren kissing and hugging and will, no doubt, kiss the tarmac on my return. Nothing like the green of this beautiful area and the signs of spring that are just beginning.

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 Saturday, June 15, 2013. We depend on you to have a successful plant sale. As you begin to clean up your garden, please remember us and pot up those plants that you no longer want in your garden but that others may desire. We would kindly ask that you refrain from donating invasive plants and the Committee does have the prerogative to remove, from the plant sale, those plants that it considers to be invasive. Last year we raised \$925 for the Club. This money goes a long way to assisting the club in supporting worthwhile gardening related projects in the community.

Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting

January 22, 2013 Minutes

By Arlene Dench

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Moved by Janice Rose and seconded by Cliff Stainsby that minutes of previous meeting be accepted as distributed. Carried.

Thanks to set up and clean up crew. Sign up sheet circulated for Feb.

President's Report - AGM at Ajay's house this year. Upcoming Seedy Saturday is Mar 9. Our tables are manned but others can still help. Need to seat nominating committee early for next year's executive and committee positions. If anyone has renewed and is not receiving newsletter please let Sandra Goth know. Newsletters will be discontinued to members who have not paid dues. Valerie and Kerry Davis were married on Jan. 3rd and Valerie had a bike accident on Sun. Mary Gale will be informed so that cards can be sent. Need volunteer for arranging bus tour. This entails getting together with CowVal club, taking money and paying bus tour operator. Only takes a few hours. Will be sometime in June.

Vice-President's report: The slate of speakers is full now. Feb. will be Richard Fraser on hellibores, speaker will be first that evening and the meeting will follow. March will be Ted Leisch on bees and pollinators, April is our master gardeners' panel and May will be Linda Dowling of Happy Valley Lavender farm on creating edible mandelas.

Treasurer - slightly over budget at Christmas, library still has \$263.00, present balance is \$2247.89. Reminder to those who might want name tags to see her about them.

Secretary's report - nothing

Membership report - 5 new members tonight and 3 renewals

Newsletter - nothing

Website - not here

Flower and Garden Show - First meeting Mon Jan. 28, 7 pm at Heather Gibbins. Call for directions. The more help the merrier. Flower and garden show is June 14 and 15.

Plant Sales - plants are shivering tonight

Raffle - several tools at raffle tonight.

Library - Heather and Nick donated two Royal Horticultural Society books that they purchased for us in England. Bill Herring says these are the best books he has ever read. Three more new books available. Please bring books back that might be overdue.

Kitchen -no report

Historian - not here.

Members Forum: Penny Jones has two for one coupons for Victoria Health conference. Louise Kettilson has a ticket available for the Mixing it Up conference in Sidney this weekend which is sold out.

Brag Table -" What's Up"- witch hazel, mahonia charity or winter sun, epimedium, (should be cut down about a month from now like helibores) fern, pieris, honeysuckle shrub, sweet box.

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Garden Club Minutes cont'd

Helibore hibridus, heather, winter nandina, snowdrops, a rose, hebe, pineapple mint, euonimis, dusty miller, rhodo, viburnum, kerrria, native red currant, climbing hydrangea.

Q and A: Bill is away this evening, Joy Story will answer questions. Pip pulled up some leeks and they have enormous roots. Should they have? Pull slightly then cut roots off and let them decompose. There are two different types, summer and winter. Summer leafed did not die back this winter. Carmen. Something ate Kale. Not deer. Nothing left, perhaps rabbits? Wood pigeons might as well. Collard and kale devastated in greenhouse but nothing touches swiss chard. Monitor and keep an eye on it. Are earwigs still busy? Woodbugs are. Parsnips, peas and potatoes can be planted in Feb. Sprout potato eyes out of direct sunlight before planting. Camelia planted with rhodos does not bloom. Can it be pruned? Very shaded. Buds do not form. Can be pruned hard. Prune after flowering. May not be getting enough water. Sooty mold from an insect on back of leaves, once on, excretes 'honeydew', gets on leaves and then mold grows. Nothing much can be done. Aphids on window sill, tried deep woods off which killed the plant. Safer soap did not work. On Indoor hibiscus. Spray them off in shower. Black current plant that needs to be moved, can it be transplanted.? Dig out to drip line to get root ball. Needs to move within next month. Root prune and give a good hair cut. Make sure to keep well watered. Ideally should have been moved in the fall. Easy to take cuttings from. Worthwhile to do in case it does not survive.

Reminder about bringing coffee cups.

Tonight's speaker is our own Pip Woodcock on "What's the link between Floriade 2012 in Holland, Todmorden in the UK and Cowichan Bay?"

Next mtg. February 26.

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.



GO GREEN

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

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, February 23rd, 10am to 3pm, Seedy Saturday in Sooke, Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Road,

Saturday, February 23rd, 1pm to 4pm, Intensive Bio mediation – Techniques for Healing Toxic Soil, Victoria Compost Education Centre, 1216 North Park Street, www.compost.bc.ca

Saturday, February 23rd, 1–4 pm or Tuesday, February 26th 930am–1230 or Sunday March 10th, 1-4pm or Sunday March 17th, 1-4pm or Saturday April 6th, 930am-1230
Native Plant Gardening Workshops, Swan Lake Sanctuary, 3873 Swan Lake Rd. To register Phone 250-479-0211. www.swanlake.bc.ca/adult-programs.php

Sunday, February 24th, 1pm to 4pm, HCP presents Spring Check List, Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, 505 Quayle Rd. www.hcp.ca

Sunday, March 3rd, 12 noon to 3 pm, HELLEBORE SUNDAY, at The Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, 505 Quayle Rd., Victoria www.hcp.ca 250-479-6162



the Cobble Hill 13th annual
Seedy Saturday
Saturday 9th March from 10 am to 3 pm
Cobble Hill Hall, 3550 Watson Avenue,
in the heart of Cobble Hill Village

Celebrate our '100 Mile Spring' with
organic & heritage seeds
plant starts for food & flowers
bulbs & tubers, figs & ferns
mason bees & their houses
winter veggies & edible sprout seeds
garden furniture & gardeners' soaps
permaculture & master gardeners
seed exchange & kiddies' fun

presented by the Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers' Institute
for information please call 250-743-7305 or 250-734-8036
our thanks to Cowichan Press

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Join Carolyn Herriot from 7-9 pm. On Friday March 22nd at The Duncan Garage Showroom for a lively lecture and discussion on 'Zero-mile living - Living the good life'



HEATHER SALE

Saturday, March 30, 2013
Cobble Hill Farmers' Institute
3550 Watson Avenue
Cobble Hill, B.C.
10:00 - 12:00 (or until sold out)

Exciting new introductions for 2013 will include winter-blooming heaths, summer blooming heathers, spring tips and starter kits.

For detailed information:
www.bcheathersociety.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

THE COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Presents the 2013 Spring Flower Show & Plant Sale
Saturday, April 13, 2013, from 10am-2pm
Duncan United Church Hall, 246 Ingram Street, Duncan
SHOW HIGHLIGHT A Special Presentation by Leaf and
Petal
"IS FLORAL DESIGN A DYING ART?" 10:30am and 11:30am
Container demo: by Sand Piper "One Pot Four
Ways" 11:00am
Come and purchase unique plants, view fabulous displays
of floral designs, interesting plant material, and the best
spring flowers grown by entrants in the judged flower
show. Non-members are invited to enter in the flower
show.
For details please e-mail Esther Craig at:
cvgcspringshowandplantsale@gmail.com
Refer to web site for flower show schedule and further
information: <http://cowichanvalleygardenclub.com>
Admission \$3.00 - Hot Beverage included, home-baked
goodies by donation