



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2013

Next Meeting
March 26, 2013



The March meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on Tuesday, March 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.

MARCH SPEAKER:

Ted Leischner

Topic : Pollination

March Brag Table Theme:

MARCH CHARM

With plant and flower identification and commentary provided by Ali Morris, 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.

Garden Tours

The MBGC and the CVGC are, once again, seeking people willing to host tours of their gardens - ornamental or food gardens - this year from April through August. If you are willing to have garden club members view your garden, please contact Cliff Stainsby and let him know. Such tours are usually on weekends and last from about 10:00am (earlier if you wish) to about 3:00pm. These hours are adaptable.

March Kitchen Duties:

Dianne Regan

Cookies/ Goodies:

Valerie Robinson, Kathy Code, Ruby Armour

Kitchen Helpers:

Roger Burgess

Set up / Clean Up:

Monika Morgan, Gill Seal-Jones, Cori-Lee Fisher

Remember to bring your mug!



President's Report

Ajay Oppelaar

It's mid-March and my lawn already needs mowing. I think this is the earliest I've ever seen such growth in our yard. We left on holiday the second of March, returned on the 10th and in that one week, everything grew. The crocuses were in full bloom, the daylily clumps are already up to a foot tall, even hostas are getting busy. Winter already seems a distant memory.

At March's Executive and Committee meeting, there was much discussion about making the club's presence at Seedy Saturday more visible and attention getting. It seems we were underwhelming this year and hard to see in a sea of promotional signs and displays.

It was agreed that a committee shall be formed to work on club signage and promotional materials for next year's Seedy Saturday. A new club pamphlet and large sign with club benefits and events will be developed. The big success for us this year at SS was the Children's programme handout for the Community Flower and Garden Show that Nick and Heather Jenkins developed. It involves local youngsters showing at the Community F and G Show by providing them with seeds, soil, and cells for growing. In June, they can enter their projects in the Children's class of the flower show.

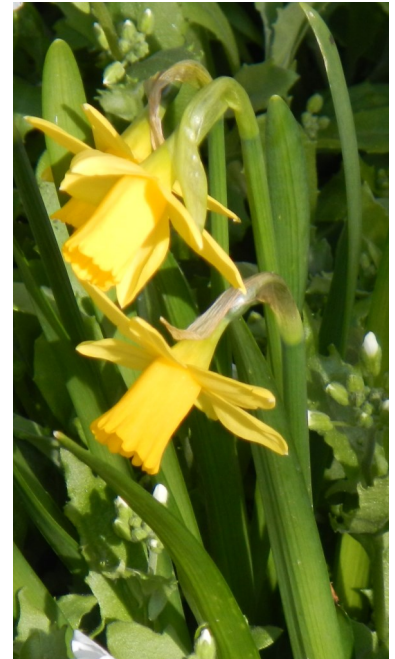
If you have some ideas to share about the new expanded SS programme, please contact me and we'll get the committee seated if not this season, then in September when our new season begins.

We are still looking for a few new additions to our Executive and Committee for next season. Especially needed is a Treasurer. If you have good accounting skills, are proficient with Excel spread sheets, and would like to deepen your involvement with our organization, please talk with any of our current Executive and Committee members. You can also talk with Gale McIntyre directly to ask what the position entails.

We have a bus tour co-ordinator to work with the Cowichan Valley club. As soon as details are worked out, we'll be offering tickets for sale, hopefully at the April meeting. Thank you to Ruby Armour again for stepping up and offering to help out. I look forward to sharing a glass of wine on the bus with you again this year Ruby!

At our regular March meeting, we will have a short presentation from Bev Rempel on how to use our new Facebook page. Thank you to Bev and Pauline Dueck for their time and knowledge in helping to broaden access to information about the Community Flower and Garden Show on June 15th.

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President's Report cont'd

In this issue of the newsletter you will see a notice about the Cowichan Valley GC Spring Show and Sale on Saturday April 13 in Duncan. Please consider entering some of your early flowering specimens in their show. As you all know, CVGC President Dianne McAmmond and I have been working on how to have some cross participation in club events and this is one of those opportunities. Let's show a high level of cooperation by choosing some of your choice daffodils, tulips, rhodo blooms and early foliage to enter in their show. Dianne will be on hand at our March meeting with class schedules and more information.

We had a great turnout for our February meeting and many laughs. Roughly 80% of our current members turned out, and we had 5 new members and a couple of visitors as well. Let's see if we can duplicate this again for March and fill the hall! See you there!

GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE

By Elaine Scott—Plant Sale Chairperson

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. The money that the Club makes from the plant sale helps to support our contributions to projects ongoing in our Community. Our Club is very community minded, and therefore, the plant sale is important to us.

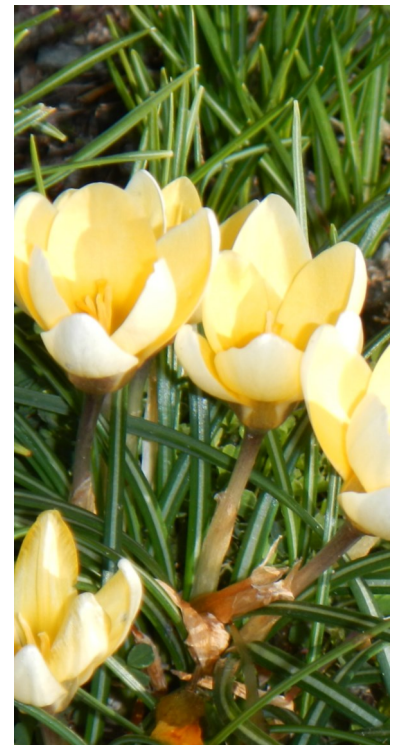
Please remember to pot up plants for the sale. If each of us only gave five plants each (and many members give far more than that) just imagine the variety and number of plants we would have for sale. We would kindly ask that you refrain from donating invasive plants and the Committee does have the prerogative to remove, from the sale, those plants that it considers to be invasive. It is important that we continue to be good stewards of our environment.

Notes From the Library

Janice Rose—your friendly MBGC Librarian

A reminder to all members to please return borrowed books to the next garden club meeting so that others may borrow them. If you are unable to attend the next meeting, please call or email Janice Rose to arrange for a return at your convenience.

Does anyone wish to have a new addition to the library? If you have a special resource or book that you believe our library would benefit from please let Janice Rose know. At this point we are collecting special requests to add to our collection for next year.



WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!

By Bev Rempel and Pauline Dueck

Yes, Mill Bay Garden Club has emerged this spring with a brand new face to the public – online. Pauline Dueck and Bev Rempel have over the past month created a beautiful Facebook page for MBGC. Are you wondering why? Here are a few ideas:

1. It's free! The most cost-effective way to create an online presence. A Facebook page does not replace a website – rather it works together with and enhances the effectiveness of the website.
2. To promote the MBGC and gardening on Vancouver Island to the rest of the Cowichan Valley (and perhaps to the world!) Many people use Facebook to find information and to connect with others with the same interests in their area. Gardeners new to the Cowichan Valley looking to connect with other gardeners may connect and join the MBGC.
3. Publicize events to the community and to MBGC members. Sign in to the Facebook page and you can quickly see what events are coming up, and read about past events.
4. Share! You can share too – share pictures of your garden as it is growing. This is the perfect venue for a more spontaneous way to create community between regular monthly meetings.

Mill Bay Garden Club members are avid gardeners, love to be 'mucking about' in the garden....now with just a click you can share your love of gardening with countless others (virtually anonymously)

How, you may ask? If you are not on Facebook, you must become a facebook member. When on Facebook, search Mill Bay Garden Club. When you get to the page, 'LIKE' it and 'SHARE' it with your friends.

Membership Chair Report

Sandra Goth

We have gained many new members but are lacking in some personal information. We, at times, need phone numbers and addresses. Mary Gale our wonderful historian sends cards to members who experience life milestones or may need just a bit of cheering from time to time.

At our last Executive Meeting, always fun, it was decided we would like to look at ways we could better promote our club. From my vantage point on the sidelines of each Club meeting I must admit if we get a lot more participation we will be moving to BC Place. However, it would be nice to have a display board that would better showcase our club.

If any member would like to be part of pouring creative juices into strutting our stuff for the public, please send me an email or let me know at the next meeting.

My first year in the club will end at our AGM and I must say it has been a hoot. As a gardener I have gained a great deal of wonderful information, as a member of the Executive I have learned so much about the heart and soul of the club, and as a neighbour I have grown even fonder of being part of our community.

Think about getting involved, it is all good.

"Spring is busting out all over the meadow and hills" Go forth and sow!

Gardening Tips

Barb Kohlman, Past President

March 2013

- ◆ Pruning: prune out all ddd's dead, diseased, damaged and DUMB
- ◆ Disinfect tools with a 10% solution of bleach if you suspect disease.
- ◆ Prune down Group C clematis to two or three good strong buds at the base.
- ◆ Prune summer blooming shrubs.
- ◆ Dolomite lime spread over root area of lilac, mock orange, deutzia would be a good thing to do now.
- ◆ Deadhead early blooming bulbs - and leave their foliage to die naturally.
- ◆ Can plant true lilies now. But wait till soil is warmer to plant dahlias, gladioli and other tender bulbs.
- ◆ Start seeds of tender annuals indoors , following the seed package instructions.
- ◆ Bring your over-wintered patio plants into warmer, brighter light and fertilize them lightly when growth resumes.
- ◆ Perhaps get a tetanus booster to avoid soil-borne bacteria diseases.
- ◆ Divide and transplant summer and fall blooming perennials.
- ◆ Place supports for tall or floppy flowers before plants are fully grown and it is too late.



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.



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.

GO GREEN

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

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB

GENERAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 26, 2013 Minutes

By Arlene Dench

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. In order to have this evening's speaker first, only two reports were given:

Plant Sales – Heather – we have hellebores, some unusual vegetables, tubers, giant parsnips.

Raffle – begonias, gladiolas, hellebores. Tickets are three for a dollar.

Second half of meeting:

President's Report – Ajay introduced himself to new members. Moved by Janice Rose and seconded by Jim Cocker to accept last month's minutes. Carried. Thanks given to set up and clean up crew. Sign up for flower and garden show circulated. Ajay explained the duties involved. Any questions about President's Report in newsletter? None. Seating nominating committee soon. Several positions will be open, a couple of people have expressed interest. Seedy Saturday tables are manned. Yahoo has been paid for website. Graham Howie contacted us through the website asking for permanent part time garden assistant in Shawnigan. Speak to or email Ajay.

Vice-President's Report - Cliff – no report

Treasurer – Gale - \$2304.20 bal.

Secretary – Arlene - no report

Flower and Garden Show -Heather Gibbins – Four new members this evening. Two guests as well. Next F&G Show volunteer meeting is Mon. Mar 4 at 7 pm. At Bev Rempel's home.

Membership -Sandra - spoke on our high level of volunteerism.

Volunteer is still needed to co-ordinate bus tour.

Kitchen -Diane – no report

Library – Janice - looking for person who wanted to borrow a specific book. Tons of new books in. Two on composting, insect, weed and disease control, edible landscaping, two cook books, 100 mile diet, fruit growing, pruning and training, winter harvest. Members can keep books for one month.

Historian - Mary – read minutes of March 1988. Meeting was cancelled due to lack of electricity. Cards sent to Elaine Bliss, Mr. and Mrs.K. Davis who were recently married, Mrs. Davis who has recovered from her cycling mishap. Romey Pringle congratulating her on being given lifetime membership at the Farmers Institute for volunteering for over forty years.

Website - Kerry – nothing

Brag Table – Barb Kohlman

Raffle -Carmen – lots of interesting things this evening

Plant sales - Heather J. – some magazine back copies free for the asking

Q and A: Joy Story – what should we be planting as this time of year? Gardening class starting in Duncan, building healthy soil. First class starts Tues. Time to plant the three p's : potatoes, peas, parsnips. Cold crops, radishes, edible pods, broad beans fava, prune roses. Start seeds ... tomatoes, peppers and eggplant in March, celeriac, cauliflower and cabbage in March, fruit trees should be pruned already, the sooner the better. Stinging nettle can be harvested now, makes teas and soup, can be eaten steamed.

ANNUAL CHARITY PLANT SALE - SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2013

9:00AM TO 2:00PM (Sale will not begin until 9:00)

2836 Oceanside Lane, Mill Bay (Top of Driveway)

This sale is brought to you by four of our Garden Club members - Ali Morris, Barb Kohlman, Sharon Martin and Elaine Scott. There will be a wide range of plants available and Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your questions.

The proceeds from the sale will be divided between *Malawi Girls on the Move* a program to support the education of girls in Malawi and the *CMS Food Bank*. This sale is another great one to obtain interesting and healthy plants at a very reasonable cost.



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



COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 13, 2013 10:00 AM– 2:00 PM

Duncan United Church Hall, 246 Ingram Street

Admission \$ 3.00 Children under 5 free

SHOW HIGHLIGHT

IS FLORAL DESIGN A DYING ART?

A Special Presentation by Andrea Strachan of



10:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Demonstration by Gunnell Borge of



One Pot — Four Ways! 11:00 AM

CAMERA BUFFS: ENTER OUR JUDGED PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

A portion of the proceeds will support "Garden Pals" a community garden charity.

For more information: www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com



Annual Flower Show & Plant Sale

Saturday, April 13, 2013
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Duncan United Church Hall
246 Ingram Street
Admission \$3.00

SHOW HIGHLIGHT

IS FLORAL DESIGN A DYING ART?

A Special Presentation by
Andrea Strachan of



10:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Web site: www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com

Email: cvgcspringshowandplantsale@gmail.com

Convenor: Esther Craig 250-246-2422



Judged Flower Show

View floral designs, flowers and plant cuts

Photography Show

Judged display of garden related
photography

Plant Sale

Unique plants acclimatized to our area.

Demonstration by Gunnell Borge of



One Pot — Four Ways! 11:00 AM

Refreshments

Hot drink with your entry ticket
Home baked snacks by donation.

A portion of the proceeds will support
"Garden Pals"
a community garden charity.

Web site: www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com

Email: cvgcspringshowandplantsale@gmail.com

VIEW ROYAL GARDEN CLUB Spring Show

Exhibits of Flowers, Vegetables & Fruits

Saturday, April 6th, 2013

Shoreline Community School
2750 Shoreline Drive



Public Viewing 1 - 3 pm
Admission \$5. includes door prizes
Refreshments served from 1:00 - 2:45pm
Baked Goods and Garden Items for sale

Non-members welcome to exhibit
Information: 250-478-5880 or 250-391-8800

Central Vancouver Island

Oreid Society

Annual Show & Sale

April 12th-14th, 2013

Nanaimo North Town Centre

(4750 Rutherford Road)

AOS judged show
Island, Mainland & International Vendors
Potting Demonstration with Q&A - Sunday at 1:00pm

Friday: 9:30am - 9:00pm
Saturday: 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sunday: 11:00am - 4:00pm

CVIOS is a non-profit society. Visit our website at www.cvios.com and reach us on Facebook

April 12 from 1pm to 8pm and April 13 9am to 3pm The Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society's annual Spring Show and sale

will be held at Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria, BC. This is a spectacular show of rock and alpine garden plants as well as commercial and member plant and seed sales, displays, door prizes, silent auction and refreshments.

Club members plant sale: 11 am April 13th

Specialty nurseries will sell plants during the entire show.

Victoria Rhododendron Society Show & Sale

Saturday, 27 April, 2013 from 9:30am to 4:00pm

More information: www.victoriarhodo.ca, 250-478-6615 or
loisb@shaw.ca. Truss show & plants for sale. Held at Tillicum Centre.
3170 Tillicum Rd, Victoria, BC

Horticulture Centre of the Pacific

Spring Plant Sale

April 27th and 28th 9 am to 4 pm

505 Quayle Road, Victoria. 250-479-6162 www.hcp.ca



Giant Plant Sale and Garden Equipment Displays

Saturday May 4, 2013

10 am – 2 pm

Cowichan Exhibition Grounds Duncan

Free Coffee and Donuts for first 200 customers

Free admission

Doors open at 10 am sharp, come early for best selection!

High quality plants from nurseries on island and mainland

More than 3000 rhododendrons for sale

Rare, hard to find rhodos available

Companion and other beautiful plants for sale

Truss (flower) display of local rhodos in bloom

Variety of unique vendors and garden related suppliers

**Planting, growing, maintenance advice from expert
rhodoholics and gardeners**

Many excellent buys on quality plants

We'll help load your new plant goodies

Special Gifts for the first 100 Customers—Don't miss it!!

www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com



2013 CVRS Tour to Washington State May 9 to 11

The Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society is again hosting a great tour this spring heading south on a three day-two night visit to seven spectacular gardens in BC and northern Washington State on Whidbey and Bainbridge Islands and sites in and around Seattle.

We leave Duncan Thursday morning at 8 am and head to the Saanich Peninsula where Evelyn Weesjes hosts us at her amazing 9 acre jewel - Towner Crest garden overlooking Towner Bay. In 1970, the ARS proudly awarded Evelyn the Gold medal for her work on the genus rhododendron at UBC and in 1990 the Victoria Chapter was very pleased to present her with the Bronze Medal for her Chapter work. Her garden well reflects her contributions to rhododendron culture.

We then board the Washington State Ferry at Sidney and take a leisurely cruise through the southern Gulf Islands to Anacortes. We proceed to Whidbey Island and our first stop there is the Coupeville garden of Dave and Linda Dickerson. Over the past 10 years they brought in more than 200 tons of special exotic and local rock to hardscape their 1 acre plus garden that now has more than 900 rhodos and beautiful annuals. We spend the evening at the pleasant Coachman Inn in Oak Harbour and enjoy an evening meal followed by a short presentation from local garden experts.

Next morning after breakfast we visit the famous rhodo breeder Frank Fujioka and his fantastic oceanside garden with many rare and unique rhodos followed by the Meerkerk Rhododendron gardens-a paradise created by Ann and Max Meerkerk. Before she passed away in 1979 Ann bequeathed the Gardens to the Seattle Rhododendron Society to care for as a "peaceful woodland garden with an emphasis on rhododendrons and companion plants". Fifty three acres of inspirational woodland gardens and a forest preserve offer over 5 miles of trails to breathe in the serene beauty and nature here.

After lunch we take a ferry from Clinton to Mukilteo and then the ferry again at Kingston for a short trip to Edmonds and a drive over the causeway to Bainbridge Island and the famous Bloedel Gardens. These 150 acres are a unique blend of natural woodlands and beautifully landscaped gardens, including a Japanese Garden by renowned landscaper Fujitaro Kubota, a Moss Garden, a Reflection Pool and the Bloedels' former estate home. Our final ferry of the day is to Seattle where we spend the night at a nice hotel right in the heart of downtown. The evening is free for shopping, dining and sightseeing.

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After breakfast on Saturday morning we visit the Kubota Gardens, a legacy to its founder Fujitaro Kubota who in 1927 bought two hectares of logged off swampland in Seattle and started his Rainier Beach garden. Another 7 ha were added in 1981 and the City of Seattle acquired the Kubota garden in 1987. This unique urban refuge displays over 80 years of effort including 400 tons of stone placed to create waterfalls, reflection pools and habitat for the thousands of plants this landscaper worked with throughout his long life.

Our final garden of the trip is the renowned Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, south Seattle. There are 10 hectares of botanical splendour and one of the largest collections of species rhodos and azaleas in the world.

Following lunch we start heading north with a shopping and supper stop at the Bellis Fair mall in Bellingham. Then we travel to the border and the Tsawwassen ferry terminal to catch the last ferry at 9 pm arriving in Duncan around 11:30 pm.

The all-inclusive cost of the tour is \$500 per person (double occupancy) or \$ 635 (single occupancy). A **\$200 deposit** is required to confirm your seat. The price includes:

- ☑ 3 days of travel in a deluxe highway coach
- ☑ All ferry fares, gratuities and taxes
- ☑ All meals except suppers on Friday and Saturday nights
- ☑ Morning snacks/soft drinks and bottled water
- ☑ 2 nights' accommodation--Oak Harbour and downtown Seattle
- ☑ Entry fees to the Gardens

You will need a valid passport for this trip. Nobody gets on the bus in Duncan without a passport. We also recommend you purchase travel medical insurance for your visit to the USA. Participants should be in good physical condition but the sites are mostly well accessible.

Final payment is due April 15, 2013



Master Gardener

Part-time Non-credit Certificate Program

Are you an experienced home gardener interested in advancing your skills and volunteering in your community?

Consider the VIU/WIMGA Master Gardener Basic Training Program, offered at VIU for 12 Saturdays starting: **September 14 - November 30, 2013.**

The course is based on the original, authentic Master Gardener program from Washington State University, 30 years strong.

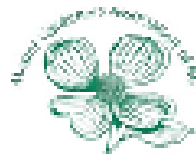
View the full Program Guide at the VIU website, viu.ca/ce/certificates/mastergardener.asp

"BC's Master Gardeners: Educating the public while continuing to educate themselves in sustainable gardening practices."

INFORMATION SESSION

When: Wednesday, May 22; 6-8pm

Where: G.R. Paine Horticultural Centre, Nanaimo



Vancouver Island Chapter



**Continuing Education
& Contract Services**
at Vancouver Island University



Mill Bay Garden Club
Presents
The 66th Annual
**Community Flower
& Garden Show**
'Beauty and the Feast'

Saturday June 15th 2013

9am to 2pm

Cobble Hill Hall,

3550 Watson Ave, Cobble Hill.

8am-11am Rotary Pancake Breakfast

9am-2pm Show open

Inside: Flower and Vegetable Show, Silent Auction,

Lake Bay Hill Ladies Auxiliary Strawberry Tea.

Outside: Plant Sales, Commercial Plant Vendors,

Garden Accessories, Master Gardeners.

Admission: \$2.00

Exhibits Accepted Friday June 14th 2013

Noon 'til 7pm

Show Programmes Available at: Buckerfield's, Dinter Nursery,

Laughing Llama, Country Grocer and Thrifty Foods.

*A donation from the Show proceeds will be made to the Mill Bay
Food Bank*

For more information go to www.millbaygardenclub.com