



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

SEPTEMBER 2013

Next Meeting September 24th, 2013

The September meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on Tuesday, September 24th 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.



September Brag Table Theme:

Fall Flair

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

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER:

**Barre Agar, Royal Roads
University, Head Gardener**

Her topic is

Bountiful Berries

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Please remember that membership dues must be paid by the October meeting to ensure you continue to receive the benefits of a monthly newsletter and notifications about those wonderful garden tours. Membership is very reasonably priced at **\$10 cash please.**

September Kitchen Duties:

Dianne Regan

Cookies/ Goodies:

Penny Jones and Bobbie Burns

Set up / Clean Up:

Anyone willing and able to come early and help set up? All help is greatly appreciated!

Remember to bring your mug!

President's report

Cliff Stainsby

This is my first meeting as your President and right off I want to thank Ajay Oppelaar and Barb Kohlman, last term's President and Past President respectively, for the exceptional job they did over the past few years. Working with them, was an incredible group of people who as an Executive Committee, made the Garden Club so much fun. Many thanks to all of these people.

Fortunately, many of those on the past Executive Committee, including our now Past President - Ajay, remain. And, I expect it will be an enjoyable 2 years as we continue our work.

If you have any suggestions about how to improve our Club or our meetings, please don't hesitate to approach me at meetings or email me with your ideas.

Since this is my first report, let me say that my vision of the Mill Bay Garden Club is that we enable gardeners and would be gardeners from the South end of the Cowichan Valley to meet, to talk, and to learn about gardening, both ornamental and food gardening, and to provide opportunities to learn from speakers on a wide range of gardening topics, and to visit other peoples' gardens.

The new Executive Committee held our first meeting on Sept 10. It went well with the members of the Committee moving quickly and forcefully to make it clear to the novice President that his role is to do their bidding, nothing more, nothing less. And, so shall it be.

We prepared a budget forecast for the upcoming year. That proposal will be presented at the General Meeting on September 24.

We decided that Bev Rempel who produces our Facebook page should be invited to join our Committee. I am happy to announce that she has agreed to do so.

Also, our 2013/14 contract with Kerry Park Community Centre for the meeting Hall has been signed and the rent paid.

I look forward to working/playing/meeting with all of you during the next year.

Happy Gardening

Cliff Stainsby



Gardening Tips

By Barb Kohlman, Master Gardener

Mill Bay Garden Club Tips

September-October 2013

Plant a single "hens & chicks" where you are putting in new bulbs to mark the spot! And look for a great selection of bulbs for spring bloom. Plant them now.

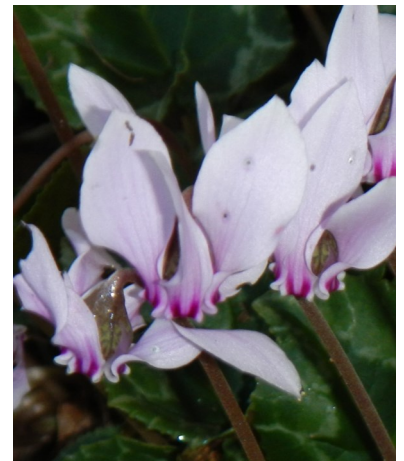
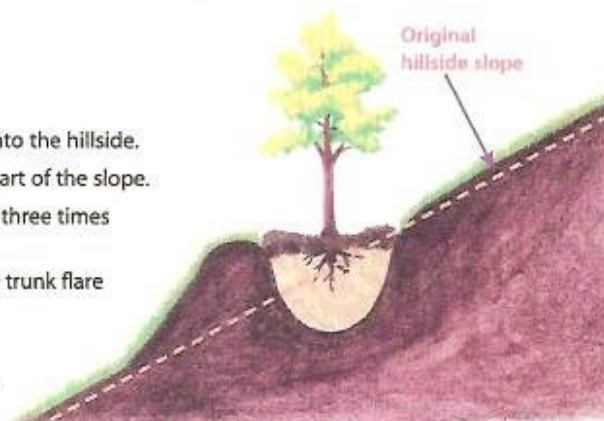
Perhaps a new tree to add to your garden might be *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelena' for winter bloom with spidery copper-orange flowers in January and orange to red leaves in autumn.

Checklist for some low maintenance plants:

1. Tends to be long-lived - perennials or shrubs (less maintenance)
2. Tolerates heat - our hot dry August conditions
3. Hardy to our climate zone 6-8
4. Resists insect/disease damage
5. Infrequent or no deadheading - this seems harsh, most plants need some deadheading or cutting back, for some do this now-but leave seed heads, where reasonable, for food for the birds in winter
6. Thrives without heavy fertilizing. A once a year handful of slow release in the spring
7. Requires no staking - (or stake early, before they flop)
8. Requires infrequent division - intact 4 years or longer for perennials
9. Requires infrequent pruning - always leave room for plants to grow—books usually quote to ten year maturity when giving you a size
10. Not invasive or over aggressive

Simple steps for HILLSIDE PLANTING

- Create a back-sloped cut into the hillside.
- Transfer soil to the lower part of the slope.
- Dig a planting hole two to three times the size of the root-ball.
- Place the tree, keeping the trunk flare visible, and backfill.
- Make a soil well for water retention, and add mulch.



Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting

May 28, 2013

By Arlene Dench

Called to order at 7:05

President's Report – Ajay – AGM will be at Ajay's June 25. His garden will be open early that afternoon. Motion to accept last month's minutes as distributed. Moved by Mary Gale and seconded by Glad Roth. Carried. Thank you to set up and clean up crew. Circulated sign up sheet for duties at AGM. How many people are intending to come to AGM? Looks like we might need more tables. Perhaps from here? Ajay will talk to Sheena. In event of rain, Shawnigan Lake room is not available this year but Kerry Park are trying to shuffle people so that we can have Mill Bay Hall if required. Will keep members posted. Any questions about Pres. Report? None. Bus tour sold nine tickets. Ajay will call to remind members who are not here that bus leaves at 8:15 a.m. prompt. Any seats left? No. Wear comfortable shoes, bring umbrella and wear name tag. Back about 6. Parking at hall no issue. F&G show on June 15. Sign up sheet for volunteers circulated, last chance to sign up. New exhibitors will have help on the Friday evening. The more participation the better. Janice has copies of judging standards.

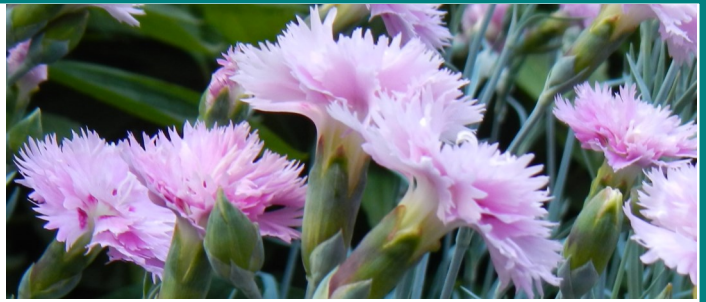
Vice-President – Cliff – thanks to people who opened their gardens. June 22 - Dot Garbet's garden will be open from 10 to 1, Bill Herring's from 10 to noon and Carmen's as well.

Treasurer – Gale – \$2375.71 bal. Charities this year will be – Hospice, Providence farm and Elaine's charity, Go Malawi Girls Go.

Secretary – Arlene – no report.

Membership – Sandra – 1 new member.

Flower & Garden Show – Ajay spoke for Heather G. – on line to do as well as last year. The more we make, the more we can give back to the community. Donations to silent auction are appreciated and members are asked to



patronize the vendors.

Newsletter – Mary Vandenberg – not here, nothing to report.

Website – Kerry – not here.

Library – Janice – donation of a ton of books, several of which are loaned out already. Missing book found in Librarian's home. Magazine subscription purchased. Books taken out tonight can be kept until September.

Raffle – Carmen – succulent bowl, lewisia,

Plant Sales – Heather J. – plants, mason bee houses, seeds.

Kitchen – Dianne – nothing.

Historian – Mary – cards sent during month, Heather J. for first grandchild.

Member's Forum – Elaine – plant sale at flower show, bring plants to Elaine's before Friday noon. If not there, open gate to veg garden, leave plant and close the gate.

Flower & garden show – silent auction. Monika. Have lots of great donations but we need further donations from club members. Donations will be uploaded to Facebook page. Arbutus Ridge and Cowichan golf courses have donated and ask for our patronage.

Brag Table – Barb Kohlman

Q and A – Joy Story – June 23 garden tour at her house. Q. caterpillar control? BTK is an approved control in Canada. It is a bacteria that will take care of tent caterpillars. Drown them in soapy water. Check berry bushes, fruit trees, birch and willow trees.

This evening's speaker – Linda Dowling, Happy Valley Herb Farm.

Notes From the Library

Janice Rose, Your Friendly Librarian

A reminder to all to please return all books that have been borrowed for the summer months.

If there is a particular book or reference that you believe our library would benefit from please contact Janice Rose with particulars.

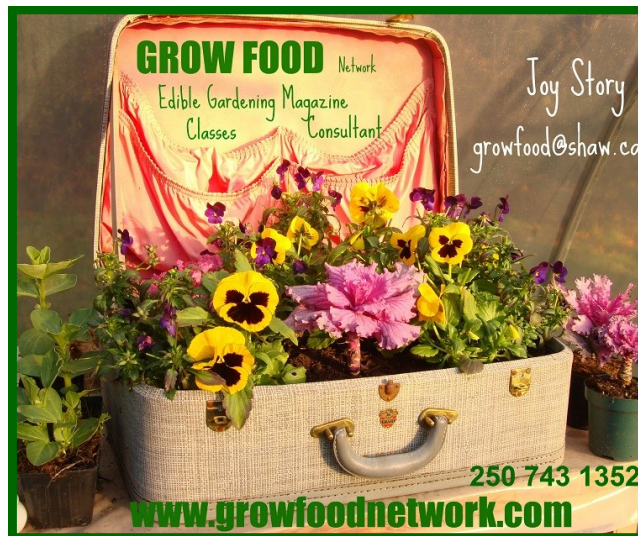


Cards by Mary Gale

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!



Grow Food with JOY

Wednesday Night 6 – 8 pm

Sept 25, Oct 2 & 9

3 onsite Organic Gardening Classes

Topics covered: Winter Gardening, Growing Healthy Soil, and Planting Seeds.

Some winter veggie plants included

Mill Bay area, cost \$60.00 for all 3



Salt Spring Island, BC, Apple Festival

Sunday, Sept 29, 2013 on Salt Spring Island, BC
Growing over 350 varieties of apples ORGANICALLY.

The Salt Spring Island Apple Festival is an incredible little community event, attracting about 1500 apple lovers, celebrating the apples (and food) of Salt Spring Island and connecting you with the farms and farmers that produce this very special diversity of tasty, healthy food. Attendees all become SALT SPRING ISLAND APPLE CONNOISSEURS!

Time: From: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Location: Fulford Hall

Address: 2591 Fulford-Ganges Road Salt Spring Island, British Columbia V8K 1Z4

Admission: varies -- \$10 average

www.saltspringapplefestival.org.

Greater Victoria Compost Education

www.compost.bc.ca

Visit their website to view the many workshops available.

Some examples:

- Sept 28th - Getting Your Hands Dirty
- Oct 5th - Composting Basics
- Oct 5th - Grow the Best Garlic
- Oct 19th - Worm Composting
- Oct 26th - Advanced Composting
- Oct 26th - Garden Explorers (kids age 9-11)

Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary

www.swanlake.bc.ca

Seed Day

Sunday, September 29, Noon to 3:00 p.m.

(drop-in anytime) Admission by donation.

In Autumn Mother Nature is planting her garden for the next year - come and see what she has planned. Includes: crafts, hands-on exploration, seed scavenger hunt, seed displays and you can plant a seed to take home.

Wild Mushroom Show

Sunday, October 27, Noon to 3:00 p.m.

(drop-in anytime) Admission by donation.

A special presentation by the Southern Vancouver Island Mycological Society. Discover the wacky and wonderful world of Vancouver Island mushrooms. The huge variety found in our forests, fields and gardens will be on display. Bring your specimens for identification.

From the Gardens at HCP

www.hcp.ca

Workshops - Call to register (250) 479-6162

FREE PLANTS!

Well, the closest thing to it. This is a must-do course for anyone interested in achieving greater success with propagating plants and any course with HCP head gardener Linda Petite is time well spent. If you would like to have more of anything in your garden, or your neighbours, (ask first), email me for instructions on how to collect the material for the best results. Plus it's time to get past the lazy days of summer and start learning again so scroll down for Jeff de Jong's latest course- if you've never attended one, you really are missing out. Jeff is so knowledgeable, his pictures are great and if that wasn't enough- hugely entertaining- again time well spent.

Propagation from Cuttings

Saturday Sept. 21st 1 pm - 3pm

Flowers need Friends

Sunday September 22nd 1 pm - 4 pm

What Plants Need

Saturday Sept. 21st 1pm - 4pm

Willow Tension Trays

Sunday September 29th 9:30 - 4:30

Fall Check List

Saturday October 5th 1 pm - 4 pm

From the College

Online Soils - September 9 to November 17 Learn about the make-up and management of Soil with a focus on horticultural applications. This 10-week online course covers the physical, biological, and chemical make-up of Soil. You can expect to spend about 5 to 7 hours per week working on the course. This course is equivalent to our in-class Soils course and results in 2.0 credits towards our horticulture certificate. Cost for the course is \$450 plus \$25 for the textbook. Contact collegeadmin@hcp.ca or (250)479-3210 to register.

Online Plant Health - October 7 to December 15 Pest and disease damage is inevitable for anyone working with plants. Learn about pest biology and management practices in this 10-week online course. You can expect to spend about 5 to 7 hours per week working on the course. This course is equivalent to our in-class Plant Health course and results in 2.0 credits towards our horticulture certificate. Cost for the course is \$450 plus \$40 for the textbook. Contact collegeadmin@hcp.ca or (250) 479-3210 to register.

Landscape Horticulture Certificate Program - January 20 to November 18 Gain the knowledge and technical skills you need for a career in landscaping! This 10-month full-time certificate program prepares students to work in a variety of plant-related positions or even start their own business. Check out www.hcp.ca/college-at-hcp/ for program information and application requirements.

Level 3 Landscape Horticulture Apprenticeship Training November 25, 2013 to January 17 If you've already taken Levels 1 and 2 in the landscape horticulture apprenticeship, this is your opportunity to advance your training and boost your resume! This is a full-time 6-week program that prepares you to take the provincial Level 3 exam and takes you one step closer to being Red Seal-certified in this trade. Tuition is \$700 plus a \$20 application fee. Contact collegeadmin@hcp.ca or visit <http://hcp.ca/level-3-landscape-horticulture-apprenticeship-program/> for details.

BC Pesticide Applicator License - Fall 2013

This course and certification is required for any landscaper who is applying pesticides. It is also required for many positions within the horticulture industry. Cost for the course is \$400, which includes the three required textbooks and the government exam fee. Space is quite limited so call (250) 479-3210 to secure your spot!

Here are the options for Fall 2013:

1. Saturday and Sunday October 26 and 27 8:30-4:00, Exam Monday October 28 6:00-9:00pm
2. Wednesday and Thursday October 30 and 31 9:00-4:00, Exam Friday November 1 9:00-12:00
3. Saturday and Sunday November 23 and 24 8:30-4:00, Exam Wednesday November 27 6:00-9:00pm

Organic Master Gardener Course

The Cowichan Green Community will be hosting the Organic Master Gardener course for Gaia College, starting October 8, running through to November 30th. This intensive knowledge-based course consists of 51 hours of both classroom sessions and field work in the areas of botany, the soil ecosystem, soil fertility and management, permaculture, proper pruning techniques, and garden design from a strictly holistic and organic perspective.

Course fee is \$695. + GST.

A free information session will be held Tuesday, September 17th at 6:00 pm. Bring your questions and a friend.

Email: : nora@cowichangreencommunity.org

Life Cycles

www.lifecyclesproject.ca

Workshop Sept 19th - Soil Fertility

Russell Farms Market

Our fall bulb flyer is now out and that means we have a great selection of bulbs. Tulips, daffodils, crocus, hyacinth, allium and much more. And ask us about deer resistant choices!

Now is also the time for end of summer sales! Perennials are up to 75% off, ornamental flowering trees are 40% off and deciduous shrubs including roses are 50% off!

Check us out on facebook where we post our weekly sales, upcoming events and lots of good plant info.

Enjoy