



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2014

Next Meeting
March 25, 2014



The March meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on Tuesday, March 25th 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 Brag Table Theme: **MARCHING ON**

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

MARCH SPEAKER:

Dion Latavniks

Her topic is ROSES

March Kitchen Duties:

Dianne Regan

1 litre of 2% milk:

Janet Abbott

Cookies/ Goodies:

Betty Underwood, Mary-Ellen Deuling,

Elizabeth Coulter

Kitchen Helpers:

Kathy Edmunds, Loraine Little

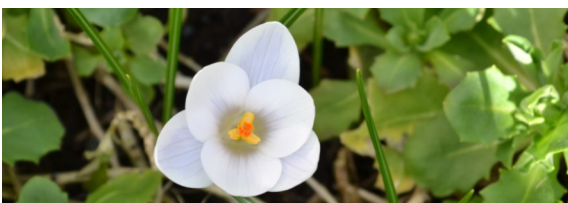
Set up / Clean Up:

Al Mikalishen, Garry Little, Dot Garbet

Remember to bring your mug!



**DON'T
FORGET!
BRING YOUR
MUG FOR THE BREAK**





Vice-President's Report

Joy Story

This Month's speaker is Dion Latavniks and she is speaking about Roses



Notes from last month's speaker: **Robin Sturley**

Tips for Starting Seeds with Robin Sturley

Edible Earth Seeds



- The main advantage to starting your own seeds is the economical saving you will gain by growing your own plant from seed.
- Another advantage is the ability to grow specialty plants and not just what's available in the stores.
- When you grow your own seeds, you know how the seed has been grown and you can have more control over the quality of the seed and the resources used.
- Growing seeds then saving seeds is a "Seed to Seed Cycle" that keeps genetic diversity available for generations to come.
- Most seeds have their ideal requirements for germination. In general though, seeds need to be consistently warm and moist with no chilling periods in between. Seeds that are kept too moist can rot, but seeds that are allowed to dry out will result in poor germination.
- The planting depth is twice the size of the seed.
- Some seeds can be pre-germinated if the soil is cool, this works well for squash.
- At Edible Earth Seeds, Robin starts them in a small outdoor greenhouse using bottom heat provided by gutter tape stapled to wooden benches. Plastic cloches are used to keep the heat in at night and lifted for air ventilation when the temperature rises during the day.

For the complete list, go to <http://growfoodwithjoy.blogspot.ca/>

Library Report

Janice Rose

Your Friendly Librarian

Notes from the Library,

This month we have acquired a brand new book, hot off the press, written by one of our own members, Joy Story. Her gardening journal, "Grow Food", is excellent. It is filled with suggestions and ideas about what to do in your vegetable garden, the compost and orchard each month. One of the best things about this journal is that it is written about our region and is filled with ideas from local experts including Bill Herring, Linda Gilkeson, Robin Sturley (who spoke at our February meeting) and Joy Story. There is ample space to record your own seeding times, crop rotations and harvesting to help keep track.

Remember to return borrowed items each month so others may have the chance to take them out as well.



Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

Elaine Scott—Plant Sale 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 14, 2014. The money that the Club makes from the plant sale helps to support our contributions to projects ongoing in our Community. Our Club is a very community minded club and, therefore, the plant sale is important to us.

As you are cleaning up your garden this spring, please remember to pot up plants for the sale. If each of us gave five plants (and many members give far more than that) just imagine the variety and number of plants we would have for the sale. We 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.

If you would like to help with the plant sale please contact Elaine.





Flower and Garden Show Silent Auction

Some donations are starting to come in. We're getting excited!

Some of the highlights are: Ajay will again donate one of his gorgeous planters, we have a 2 night get-away on Chesterman beach (worth \$700) donated by Janice Moseley's daughter in Tofino (Tofino Vacation Rentals-Osprey suite: check it out). Also a wooden rocking horse made by Frank Gibbins, a cast glass platter made by Kathy Edmunds, some stained glass by Gill Seal-Jones, a painting by Shawnigan Lake's artist David Aris, a ceramic garden piece by Bev Rempel, a promotional video from Brian Rempel, a gardening trug from Bloomfield Flats, some Fendi sunglasses (retail \$299) from South Cowichan Eyecare and Dustin (Countrywide Garden) will again contribute something special (still a surprise). Just to name a few. A great big thank you to all!

Still lots to come. Last year we received 110 items. We're looking for more creative gems from our own garden club. We know the talent is out there. We don't want to nag people, so please come forward. It doesn't have to be garden related. Perhaps you want to do some baking, or provide a gourmet meal. Get those creative juices flowing. It should be a lot of fun as well. Start saving your shekles for one or several of these great items. ☺

We will allow bidding to start on the Friday afternoon this year (June 13-a lucky one) to give people a chance to get a head start.

Last year we donated \$1500 to our local food bank from proceeds of the garden show, and the silent auction was a big part of that. We hope to have another successful weekend.

Please contact Monika Morgan or any of the other team members: Cori-Lee Fisher, Marion Johnston, Mary Heath, Mary Palaikis, Mary Vandenberg, Leslie Sutton, or Bev Rempel. We are a "Mary" group. Look forward to hearing from you.

Facebook

Pauline Dueck

Two EXCELLENT Facebook pages to be following at this time of the year are these local favorites: the Cowichan Valley Garden Fair <https://www.facebook.com/cowichanvalleygardenfair> and the Cowichan Green Community <https://www.facebook.com/cowichangreencommunity>.

Gardening Tips

Barb Kohlman, Master Gardener

Tips March April 2014

If your forsythia is blooming it is time to prune your roses!

They are blooming in Victoria, but it is a bit early for here. I am going to prune my *Rosa rugosa* down to about 18" this year to keep the blooms at a more pleasing height level.

Hellebores are looking good. Hope you have *trimmed* off all the leaves of the *Helloborus x hybridus* by now so that you can enjoy the beautiful blooms, and so there is space for new leaves to grow.

The single hellebores are best for offering nectar to the bees. In double flowers the nectarines have evolved to be 'petals' and so less nectar is produced.

As always get after those pop weeds. They are flowering now. Don't put them in your compost as they have enough stored energy to mature and form seed. Put them in a black plastic bag to rot and then put them into your compost.

The most pressing chore at this time is to clean up after the winter. I do not remove leaves from my beds where they are not interfering with plants that are emerging, but do take them away from bulbs that are growing and off of primulas etc.

If you have not planted wind flowers – *Anemone blanda* in your garden there should be 4" pots available at the garden centers now. They are such a cheery little daisy-like flower just starting to bloom in my garden and in just a few years they will seed themselves into a nice patch.

For a tree that shows good now try *Magnolia stellate*, buds are starting to break with star like flowers in white or pale pink in some cultivars. A small tree useful for a smallish space. And water well the first year to establish, I unfortunately killed mine because I did not water in the summer.

Hope you are out enjoying the sunshine.



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.



**Mill Bay Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 25, 2014**

President - Cliff Stainsby

- 7 p.m. Call to order
- Motion to accept minutes of January's meeting:
 - o Moved by Elaine
 - o Seconded by Cori Lee
 - o Carried
- Thank you to set up crew.
- Dianne - Kitchen duty - needs a few more volunteers. (All spots were filled after passing the signup sheet around the room.)
- AGM to be held at Bill Herring's residence. Thank you Bill for offering to host.
- Bus Tour in late Spring to the Saanich Peninsula. 20 members interested and Pat Stevens volunteered to help coordinate with Cowichan Valley Garden Club.
- Shirley Cook, Cowichan Valley Garden Club, reminds us it is time to start tuberous begonias, they are at the garden centres now.
- We are registered for Seedy Saturday March 8th. We have enough volunteers.
- Meeting Agenda - rearranging the order we do things is a perennial question. To make sure our club works, we need to listen to business matters and vote on the odd motion. We take care of business first, as quickly as possible, and then introduce our speaker.
- Mill Bay Garden Club brochure produced by Heather Jenkins and Janice Rose is at the printers.
- Treasurer's report - \$2267.54 balance as at February 2, 2014.

Vice President - Joy Story

- Robin Sturley is our speaker tonight.
- Season for garden showings is May through August. Let Joy know if you are willing to have your garden

on display. It does not have to be "show" ready. Done in conjunction with Cowichan Valley Garden Club. Email Joy with date, time and address and tell her a little bit about your garden.

Membership - Arlene Dench

- No new members or renewals tonight.

Members Forum

- Elaine: Some of the money the club raises from Garden Shows is donated to "Malawi Girls on the Move" construction fund to build schools for girls. A Canadian teacher started the charity. Sharon, Ali, Barb & Elaine sponsor one girl through proceeds raised from their April plant sale.
 - o Sat March 29th 10 - noon Cobble Hill Farmer's Institute Heather plant sale - 1400 plants
 - o Saturday April 26 Charity plant sale for "Malawi Girls on the Go" And Somenos Transition House. Friday afternoon we need help putting the plants out on display.
 - o Saturday June 14 Cobble Hill Flower Show and Plant Sale Think about potting some of your plants and donating to our plant sale. Friday June 13th we need help to load plants on trucks and then to unload the plants Saturday morning at the Cobble Hill Farmer's Institute grounds.

February Minutes Cont'd on next page

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- Joy Story: Grow Food Network Blog www.growfoodnetwork.com
Monthly Gardening Journal is available for purchase \$15. Second edition will be \$20 and have a laminated cover and will be available at Seedy Saturday.

Q & A – Joy Story

- February – plant leeks and onions now because of the length of time they take to mature.
- Prune fruit trees in summer so you don't get water sprouts.
- Prune in spring for structure, removing 1/3 maximum per year.

Coffee Break

Raffle

Speaker – Robin Sturley

Edible Earth Seeds

- farms one organic acre in Glenora
- seeds require constant heat & moisture, between 18 - 25°
- use bottom heat, heating mat or gutter tape tacked to greenhouse table
- no cooler than 15° while germinating – approx 3 weeks
- seeds require oxygen so important not to have soaking wet soil
- air circulation important, take plastic covers off during day and put back on overnight
- planting depth should be twice the length of the seed
- 8 weeks from seeding to transplanting
- Week 3 start feeding
- Harden off for 2 – 3 days before planting outdoors
- pre-germinating seeds by soaking first helps if planting in cooler soil
- www.johnnyseeds.com
- www.westcoastseeds.com

Meeting adjourned @ 9:08pm

Upcoming Events:

The **Koksilah Farmers Institute** is offering a one day workshop:

Linda Gilkeson presents "Backyard Bounty: Organic Harvest All Year Round".

Saturday March 22, 2014 from 9:30am-4:00pm at The Hub in Cowichan Station on Koksilah Rd.
\$25/person. Bring your own lunch.

To pre-register contact: Angela Auchincloss



VANCOUVER ISLAND HEATHER SOCIETY SPRING HEATHER SALE.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2014

To give you a start with the heather and heaths in your garden, plan to attend the annual Vancouver Island Heather Society's spring sale on Saturday March 29 at the Cobble Hill Farmers' Institute Hall. The sale will begin at 10:00 AM and last until noon or until sold out. Experienced buyers will advise you that even though there will be over 1400 plants for sale, it is essential to get to the hall prior to the sale starting in order to get the best selection. We always have unusual varieties on hand. In addition, starter kits consisting of ten plants and a planting diagram will be available. Members of the Society will be on hand to help you make your choices as will members of the Victoria Master Gardener Association to answer your gardening questions. For more information contact Elaine Scott.

MILL BAY PLANTAHOLICS PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

Barb Kohlman, Sharon Martin, Ali Morris and Elaine Scott are at it again. Their annual plant sale will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 9am to 2 pm at 2836 Oceanside Lane, Mill Bay (east off Trans Canada Highway at Kilmalu, south on Church Way, east on Welch Road and south on Oceanside Lane). This year the proceeds from

the sale will be divided between two programs. The first is the Malawi Girls on the Move program and the money will provide a scholarship for Agnes Chazeza to complete her second year of secondary school education. Agnes is a young Malawian woman who is supported by Malawi Girls on the Move. The second program that will be supported by the proceeds from the sale is the Somenos Transition House which is a program of the Cowichan Women Against Violence Society. So come to the Mill Bay Plantaholics Plant Sale on April 26 and support two very important programs through the purchase of healthy interesting plants for your garden. For more information contact Elaine Scott.



*Friends of
Abkhazi Garden*



Abkhazi Garden Community Open House

Saturday, April 5, 2014 11 am - 4 pm
at 1964 Fairfield Road - Free Admission



Dennis Robinson photo

VISIT THE GARDEN THAT LOVE BUILT, CREATED BY A REAL LIFE PRINCE AND PRINCESS

Stop by to tour the garden, learn about the legacy of the Prince and Princess Abkhazi, enjoy a cream tea, find out about upcoming events, and meet some of the people behind this amazing heritage site.

www.abkhaziteahouse.com
778-265-6466

For more information about the Friends of Abkhazi Garden
go to their website at
www.friendsofabkhazi.ca

Grow Food with JOY

Gardening Classes

Wednesday Evenings 6:30 – 8:30 pm

April 16 - Building Soil

April 23 - Planting Techniques

April 30 – Growing Veggies

Classes are \$20 each and are held in Mill Bay at Grow Food's Location



Volunteer Gardeners' Plant Sale at Cairnsmore Place

On Saturday, April 19 from 11:00 to 1:00 the Volunteer Gardeners at Cairnsmore Place will be holding their annual plant sale. There will be over 400 plants ready for planting. You will also find birdhouses and pot trivets made by members of the group.

The group is made up of 18 volunteers who work half a day a week from Spring to Fall. There is no VIHA budget for this work, so money is raised through donations and the plant sale.

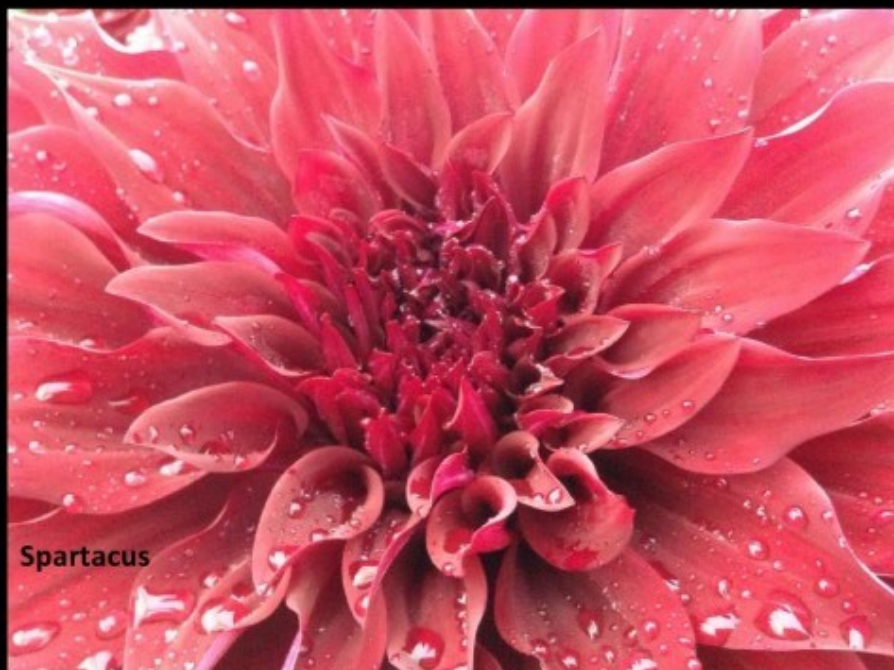
The Mill Bay Garden Club, the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society and the Cowichan Valley Hospital Auxiliary have made generous donations in the past. Last year the Duncan Christian Seniors' Home Society funded the total redesign of the island at the entrance and the Thorarinson family funded the addition of a fountain.

Money raised pays for fertilizer, mulching, new plants and new projects. Over the past two years a drip watering system was installed in all the beds and a large three-bin compost station was built.

This work can only be done with the support of the Cowichan Valley's gardening community. Thank you.



VICTORIA DAHLIA SOCIETY
ANNUAL TUBER SALE



Saturday, April 12, 2014 - 10-4

Knox Presbyterian Church
2964 Richmond Rd.

Sunday, April 13, 2014 - 11-4

Westshore Town Centre
2945 Jacklin Rd.

Email: vdspublicity@gmail.com - - web: www.victoriadahiasociety.org

VDS Annual Plant and Tuber Sale – April 2014

Spring is coming soon, and while it rains and is windy, now is a good time to be inside and plan your garden for the upcoming year. Fill it with beautiful dahlias!!

Our 2014 Plant and Tuber Sale will be held in two locations:

Saturday, April 12, 2014– VDS Plant & Tuber Sale (Day 1)

10:00am to 4:00pm at Knox Presbyterian Church, 2964 Richmond Rd, Victoria [map](#)

Sunday, April 13, 2014 – VDS Plant & Tuber Sale (Day 2)

11:00am – 4pm (or until sold out) at the Westshore Town Centre in Langford [map](#)

FROM THE COWICHAN VALLEY
GARDEN CLUB:

Dear fellow gardeners,

Join us in celebrating over 60 years of the best of Valley gardening and everything grow-your-own, focusing on garden edibles and designing with edibles, the topic being discussed in Jeff's presentation 'A Taste for Design.'

Thank you very much,
Sylvia Scott
Publicity Committee
Cowichan Valley Garden Club



THE COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

invites you to join them on
SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014
for their

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE

DUNCAN UNITED CHURCH HALL

246 Ingram Street, Duncan B.C. 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY

JEFF DE JONG

10:30 A.M., 11:45 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.

General Admission \$3.00

***With Special Presentation \$6.00**

***Advance tickets available from Apr.25 - May 9**

Leaf & Petal 101 Station Street, &

Volume One 149 Kenneth Street, Duncan

HIGHLIGHTS

Flower Show, Plant Sale, Photography & Cafe'

Raffle in aid of Providence Farm Therapeutic Garden

WWW.COWICHANVALLEYGARDENCLUB.COM



APPLE CREEK

GARDENS

Citizen

The 20th Annual Cowichan Garden Tour

I am hoping the Mill Bay Garden Club can help! The 20th Annual Cowichan Garden Tour will be held on June 8th, 2014 from 10-5 pm and we are still looking for volunteer garden hosts. Could you help by asking your members if there is anyone who would be interested in showing their garden?

All proceeds of the Garden Tour go to support the counselling and family support programs at Cowichan Family Life, for further information about them please visit <http://cowichanfamilylife.org/>.

Marian Burnett
2014 Cowichan Garden Tour Chair


Native Plant Garden Tour

The HCP is trying to increase exposure to the local and tourist markets.

Join Habitat Acquisition Trust for the annual Native Plant Garden Tour on Sunday afternoon, May 4th.

Bring the whole family for a free tour filled with new friends, experiences, and ideas for your own property.

[See the Brochure](#)



COWICHAN VALLEY

GARDEN FAIR

Saturday May 3, 2014
 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
 at Mellor Hall, Cowichan Exhibition Park, Duncan, BC
FREE ADMISSION



The 2014 Cowichan Valley Garden Fair will be held on **Saturday May 3, 2014 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**. Free admission and complementary coffee and donuts for early birds along with a special gift for the first 100 customers.

Proceeds from the Garden Fair are used for donations of rhododendrons and other plants to various public institutions in the Cowichan Valley.



The 2014 community donation of rhodos will be going to the Cairnsmore home.

Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts (MISSA)

greetings from MISSA,

This July marks the 30th anniversary of the Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts (MISSA). The school offers a wide range of workshops led by a faculty of established practicing artists who offer instruction to professional artists, teachers and adult students.

The peaceful, yet stimulating atmosphere of the Pearson College campus attracts many students and teachers who return year after year to enjoy the exchange of artistic ideas and take part in the 'MISSA magic'!

Staying in residence on campus is highly recommended.

The MISSA 2014 program includes over 45 workshops, ranging from 2 days to 2 weeks.

please visit missa.ca for the full line up.

MISSA 2014 will follow the Botany BC 2014 gathering at Pearson College. <http://members.shaw.ca/botanybc/>