



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

APRIL 2014

**Next Meeting
April 22, 2014**



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

April Brag Table Theme: Showers of Flowers

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

APRIL SPEAKER:

**Andy & Julia from the
Daylily Farm in
Shawnigan Lake**

April Kitchen Duties:

Dianne Regan

1 litre of 2% milk:

Linda Nelson

Cookies/ Goodies:

Hennie Roke, Cecile Healey, Sherry Sibley

Kitchen Helpers:

Kathy Code, Roger Burgess

Set up / Clean Up:

John Dench, Wendy Mikalishen, Barb Juurlink

Remember to bring your mug!



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



Cowichan Valley & Mill Bay Garden Club Bus Tour of Private Saanich Gardens



Join us for a fun day visiting gardens in Saanich

Date: (new date) Wed., June 25, 2014.

Time: 8:15 am - 6:00 pm

Cost: \$30.00

Transportation:

Bus pick-up is at the Mill Bay Community League Hall at Kerry Park at 08:15 a.m.

Bring: a bag lunch, appropriate clothing, something to carry your plants in.

Destination Gardens in Victoria (Saanich):

- Sharon Jack is renovating her garden from flowers to vegetables
- Richard Bryson's garden
- Carol Proudlove has over 60 varieties of hydrangeas
- Mel MacLeod's garden
- A stop at UVic Finnerty Gardens and also Russell Nursery where we will receive a 10% discount.

I will update you as more information on the tour is available. Come enjoy a wonderful day with fellow gardeners. Bring a bag lunch and a plant carrier of some sort.

Ticket Sales: Your spot can be reserved by contacting Pat Stevens by e-mail or telephone. Payment is due at the April meeting.

Unsold tickets will be on sale at the May meeting.

MBGC Contact Person: Pat Stevens,

Vice President's Report

By Joy Story

Just a friendly reminder... "We want to see your garden" **This Spring & Summer Garden Tours.**

Please consider sharing your garden with other gardeners who need inspiration and ideas.

Whether your garden is a work in progress or a place you call home, we would love to see it.

Email Joy with a date you would be willing to share.

Also, I'm booking speakers for next season.

If you have a topic idea that you would like to have presented, let me know and I will do my best to find someone who knows about it.

Also consider the speakers we have had this year and let me know if you would like me to bring them back.



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

By Gillian Seal-Jones

The Flower and Garden Show is just around the corner - June 13 and 14 - we need volunteers to make it as enjoyable and successful as previous years . We have a wonderful , reliable group of club members who help out year after year but we always need a few more . Specifically , judges assistants on Friday evening - a fun filled learning experience ! Also a few members , preferably with somewhat more knowledge than myself , to help exhibitors display their treasures and enter them in the correct category , on Friday afternoon .

The volunteer sheets will be passed around at our April meeting so please do enter your name in the time and position that you prefer to help us create another successful show .

Thank you.

Facebook

By Pauline Dueck

Facebook Tip:

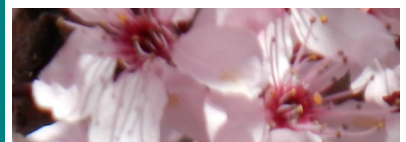
There are lots of local plant sales & gardening events in the Cowichan Valley that we are promoting on our club Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, please help to get the word out about these great events by SHARING them forward. We will start promoting our Flower Show shortly so we really need your help!

www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub

AGM JUNE 24, 2014

Mark your calendars. This year's AGM and Potluck Dinner is on Tuesday June 24, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

Bill and Mary Herring have very kindly offered their home for the AGM. More details to follow in the May Newsletter.





THANK YOU ! From Heather Gibbins via Mary Vandenberg

We had a work party in Heather Gibbins garden on April 6th in order to give her a hand because unfortunately she has broken her ankle. Heather was thrilled with the work the volunteers did. She is very grateful to everyone who came. A heartfelt Thank You to all of you!

On behalf of everyone who was there , I can say we enjoyed coming together to help. It was a fun afternoon , with delicious goodies at the end.

Library Report

Janice Rose

Your Friendly Librarian

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

It's time to think about next year! If anyone is interested in getting a book or resource to add to our collection please let Janice Rose know. A book on growing grapes in our climate zone is our first request. Any other thoughts and ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Remember to return all library books at our April meeting so that others may have a chance to borrow them. There are a few outstanding books at this time.



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.

Gardening Tips by Barb Kohlman

- ◆ If you "do" bedding plants pick them up from the nursery as the stock is available, but don't plant until about the May long weekend when the soil has warmed sufficiently.
- ◆ Stake and support taller plants.
- ◆ Pinch back leggy growth. Plants like Shasta daisies can be pinched back until July 1st to encourage strong stems and good flowering.
- ◆ Check your flowering shrubs. Are a few good branches developing to enter into the Flower and Garden Show?
- ◆ Fertilize bulbs that have finished flowering to encourage good bloom for next season, and leave foliage until it dies back naturally.
- ◆ Prune spring flowering shrubs that are now finished blooming.
- ◆ Pull up the forget-me-nots and compost before the seed is mature if you don't want too many next spring.
- ◆ Lightly shear back early spring-flowering perennials such as arabis and aubrietia.
- ◆ Let your daffodils and tulips die back naturally. Hybrid tulips naturally morph to just leaves after about two years. For successful tulips year after year try the species tulips---less spectacular, perhaps, but much more dependable. Feed with liquid organic fertilizer so they will flower well next year. Also feed Alliums (ornamental onions) as the flowers fade.
- ◆ Plant Dahlia tubers, making sure to drive the stakes in first, to avoid damage to tubers.
- ◆ Train/tie in young shoots of climbers to cover desired space.
- ◆ Keep newly sown or turfed lawns well watered.

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

President - Cliff Stainsby

- 7:05 p.m. Call to order
- Acceptance of agenda
- Motion to accept minutes of January's meeting:
 - Moved by Dianne
 - Seconded by Ajay
 - Carried
- Thank you to set up crew & kitchen crews. We required extra chairs for this meeting.
 - Al Mikalishen suggests when putting chairs away after the meeting to first move the "skateboards" closer to the middle of the room, then load the chairs onto them.
- Thanks to Seedy Saturday volunteers: Celine, Skye, Mary, Mary-Ellen, Elaine.
 - Pip reminds us that Seedy Sunday in Duncan is March 30th from 10 – 2 at the mound in the gym.
- Mill Bay Garden Club brochures went over well at Seedy Saturday – thanks Heather Jenkins & Janice Rose.
- Calendar year and dues: as per executive meeting, it has been decided that \$10 membership fee covers July 1st to June 30 and full amount is due no matter what time of year you join. For the remainder of this year, May and June, if you don't pay the membership fee you will not receive the newsletter.
 - Al Mikalishen believes it would be better to send out newsletter and notices as encouragement to join and return in September.
 - Bill thinks we should use existing rule which states guests can attend 3 meetings before being asked to become a member.
- Gale McIntyre, Treasurer, says current card stock is stamped September 30th.
- Ajay reminds us the club's fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30, therefore the membership year should be the same.
- Comment – you can join at anytime and must pay by end of September, memberships should run September to September.
- Heather suggested membership cards stamped with just the year, no month.
- Comment from new member who paid \$10 for her membership tonight said she feels it is quite worthwhile to pay what equates to \$2.50/month until end of June.
- Cliff says it is a matter of record keeping. More discussion will happen at next executive meeting.
- Pat Stevens re: Saanich Tour
 - Is coordinating with Cheryl of the Cowichan Valley Garden Club.
 - The tour is set for Tuesday June 24th, leaving here at 8:15am, returning by 6pm. There is room on the bus for 24 members of the MBGC at a cost of \$30. Bring a bag lunch.
 - So far 4 gardens are lined up for viewing in Gordon Head as well as a stop at Saanich Garden Centre and Russell Nursery. A couple of the gardens include over 60 rhododendrons. Sharon Jack is renovating her garden from flowers to vegetables.
 - Ajay makes the point that the MBGC AGM is scheduled for June 24th.

Minutes continued on next page

Minutes continued from previous page

- Pat will talk to Cheryl about changing the date.
- Cliff will ensure any new information is sent out to the membership.
- Heather would like the tour to be scheduled on a weekend so working people could attend.
- **Monika re: Community Garden and Flower Show**
 - Ajay has donated a planter, Gillian creates stained glass and is donating a piece, other members are contributing items to the silent auction.
 - \$1500 was raised last year from the auction, plant sale and entrance fees.
- **Ajay re: Heather Gibbins**
 - This is Heather's third year as Chairperson for the Flower & Garden Show.
 - She has broken her ankle and now has 14 pins and 2 plates.
 - A work party is arranged for Sunday April 6th 1 -3
 - Would like to get 10 people to show up to do some weeding, edging and plant some perennials at her home located at 2471 Arken Terrace.

Vice President – Joy Story

- Dion Latavniks is our speaker tonight – the subject is roses.
- April speaker is owner of the Day Lily farm from south Shawnigan Lake.
- Have not received any emails from members to have their gardens on tour.

Treasurer's Report – Gale McIntrye

- \$2,288.41 balance

Membership – Arlene Dench

- 4 new members and 2 renewals at Seedy Saturday.
- 3 new members tonight.

Facebook – Pauline

- Pages to follow include Cowichan Green Community and Cowichan Valley Garden Fair.

Library – Janice Rose

- MBGC has purchased Joy Story's gardening journal "Grow Food".
- Tracy donated magazines – take them and then recycle them.
- Purchasing a piece of rusty art for Corrine Tocher's garden. Corrine donated plants to MBGC.

Plant Sales – Heather Jenkins

- Plants for sale have been donated by Susan and include irises and lilies.
- Brochure/flyer for June Flower & Garden Show is ready for anyone who would like to take and post.

Historian – Mary Gale

- Heather sale this weekend. Go early as they sell out quickly.
- 5 cards sent – one to Heather Gibbins who has broken her ankle.
- Elaine Bliss has moved to the mound – new condo for seniors and enjoys receiving our newsletter.

Members Forum

- Barb Kohlman has received an email from Sharon Jack of the Gordon Head Garden Club. She would like to organize a garden tour in our area and is looking for gardens to visit in June. Let Barb know if you would like your garden to be on tour.
- Monika mentions there is a plant sale Saturday April 19th 10 – 1 at Cairnsmore Manor. This plant sale has been running for several years and includes unusual plants from Ali's garden. The money raised is spent on mulch, soil, etc for the gardens at Cairnsmore Manor.

Minutes continued on next page

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- Copies of Joy Story's gardening journal will be for sale at Seedy Sunday in Duncan.
- Joy is conducting organic gardening classes in April.

Brag Table – Barb Kohlman

- Remove dead, diseased, and damaged branches when pruning.

Q & A – Bill Herrington

- Normal amount of rain for period of Nov 2013 to March 2014 is 32".
- We are still below normal amount – Nov and Dec 2013 and Jan 2014 total rainfall was 1 ½".

Coffee Break

Raffle

Speaker – Dion Latavniks on Roses

- Known as the "Rose Lady", Dion has been growing roses for 30 years.
- American Rose Society has a brochure that rates roses. Choose only roses that rate 7.5 or better. Or check out www.everyrose.com, a database of roses put together in Victoria.
- Roses like full hot sun best.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:25pm



Volunteer Gardeners' Plant Sale at Cairnsmore Place

On Saturday, April 19 from 10:00 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.

Creating an Edible Backyard

at the Cowichan Library in the Island Savings Centre

Friday, April 25, 4-6pm

Learn to grow perennial food plants no matter how much room you have. Start your own urban food forest!



Graham Burnett



Cowichan Green Community
Where Community and Environment Meet



Providence Farm
Plant Sale
Saturday, April 26th, 2014
9am - 2pm
Farm-grown and community-donated plants,
as well as garden related products.
Farm Garage Sale • Refreshments Available

providence farm
A THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY

1843 Tzouhalem Road,
Duncan
250-746-4204
www.providence.bc.ca

Greenhouse Nursery Opening Saturday April 19th for the Season!



ONE GALLON POTS NEEDED

Elaine Scott desperately needs one gallon pots - that is the only size she needs. Folks could either drop them off at her place or bring them to the meeting. Thanks so much in advance.



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 . 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 .

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society

Cowichan Valley Garden Fair and Plant Sale

May 3rd

- 10 am to 2 pm
- Mellor Hall,
Cowichan Exhibition
Park.

Rhodos and many
other plants-

free entry and coffee

• www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com



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



A BELL CREEK

GARDENS

Citizen



HCP
HORTICULTURE CENTRE
OF THE PACIFIC

Spring Plant Sale

Date/Time

Date(s) - Apr 26, 2014 - Apr 27, 2014
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Spring Plant Sale
Saturday April 26th & Sunday April 27th
9 am to 4 pm



A huge selection of perennials and shrubs & expert advice.

For a copy of the plant list when available, please email communityed@hcp.ca

This is, as always, an open day for the gardens, so bring friends and introduce them to our beautiful gardens, shop for plants and then take a break at Nourish- an all-over grand day!

From the Gardens at HCP

To enroll in Community Education courses and workshops, call the HCP at 250-479-6162

Jane Tice

communityed@hcp.ca

- ◆ Wednesday May 14th 7 pm to 9 pm **Pruning; Art or Atrocity** with **Cass Turnbull**
- ◆ **Quick Start your Veggie Patch** Saturday May 3rd 9:30 - 12

It isn't hard to grow your own veggies but it is sometimes hard to grow them well. Lynda Dowling is inviting you to her farm, Happy Valley Lavender, to show you some basic practical steps that will start you on the road to success. Fertilizer-how much, what kind? Transplants vs seeding directly? Shade/sun- how much, how little? Water, yes but when? Get the answers to all these questions and more and Lynda will send you home with some starts to get you going.

Please call the HCP to register.

HCP Members \$30.00

Non-HCP Members \$42.00



Due to life, the dates for the upcoming Organic Gardening Courses need to be changed to Wed April 23, 30, and May 7th.

Can you come?

Grow Food with JOY Gardening Courses

Wednesday April 23, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, \$20.00

It all Begins in the Soil

Soil Health and Management through composting systems, mulching, feeding the soil organisms, growing your own nutrients and making teas for your plant. If your soil needs improving, this is the class for you.

Wednesday April 30, 6:30 – 8:30 pm \$20.00

Let's Get Planting

For most people, this is their favourite part. We will discuss the different planting methods and timing. How to have food constantly growing throughout the season, and not just in flushes. Avoiding common gardening errors such as planting too close or too much seed.

Wednesday May 7th, 6:30 – 8:30, \$20.00

My Favourite Veggies

Each variety of vegetable requires different growing conditions. This class will be dedicated to discussing your favourite veggies and what they prefer for reaching optimum harvesting results.

All 3 classes are on-site at Grow Food Gardens in Mill Bay, BC
Directions will be provided once registered. Space is limited.

To read April's Grow Food Network Blog: <http://growfoodwithjoy.blogspot.ca/>

.....You need to read this.....

Plant Sale

&

Rhodo Show

Date: May 10, 2014

Time: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Place: Beban Park - Centennial Building

Free Admission



<http://nanaimo.rhodos.ca>

It is a great time to plant now!

For more information please call Bryan at 250-756-6178



Mill Bay Garden Club's
67th Annual
**Community Flower
& Garden Show**

"Earth's Bounty"

Saturday June 14th 2014

9am to 2pm

Cobble Hill Hall

3550 Watson Ave, Cobble Hill.

Exhibits Accepted Friday June 13th 2014, Noon 'til 7pm

Inside: Flower & Vegetable Show, Silent Auction,
Lake Bay Hill Ladies Auxiliary Strawberry Tea.

Outside: Plant Sales, Gardening Workshops,
Commercial Plant Vendors, Garden Accessories,
Master Gardeners.

Admission: \$2.00

Children free

Show programmes available at:

Buckerfield's, Dinter Nursery, Valley Vines to Wines, Thrifty Foods
and Country Grocer.

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

For more information go to www.millbaygardenclub.com