



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

NOVEMBER 2014

Next Meeting

November 25, 2014

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



November Brag Table Theme:

**I'M NOT DEAD
YET**

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

NOVEMBER SPEAKER:

Pat Spezowka

**Decorating for the
Holidays**



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



November Kitchen Duties:

Dianne Regan

1 litre of 2% milk:

Sharon Martin

Cookies/ Goodies:

Mary-Ellen Deuling, Betty Underwood,

Deb Tustin

Kitchen Helpers:

Carol Goodger-Hill, Debbie Craig

Set up / Clean Up:

Cori-Lee Fisher, Monika Morgan,

Kathy Code

Remember to bring your mug!



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER



December 9th, 2014

A non-alcoholic Event

Please come join us for a fun time at the annual Christmas Potluck Dinner. Set up begins at 4:30 with doors opening at 5:30 pm to allow you time to set up your table and potluck item. Dinner service begins at 6:00 pm. Your potluck item could be a salad, dessert, or a pre-cooked potluck dish. (The hall oven will be used for food warming only.) The Club will provide a delicious ham with mustard mousse (yum) prepared by Janice Rose and turkeys roasted and carved by Dianne Regan and Barb Kohlman. We will also provide a Festive Non-alcoholic Holiday Punch, coffee and tea.

There will be a box near the entrance for donations of a non-perishable item for the food bank.

The popular gift exchange is back. For the exchange, please bring a wrapped garden related gift valued at no more than \$10.

Ajay is doing a word jumble. Christmas Carols will be sung. So, tune up your voice and come join us. Meet some of your fellow club members during a very social evening. Bring your family, they are all welcome!



Centerpiece Theme: Happy Holly-Days



Be creative and make a Christmas Centerpiece for your table. To qualify for the prizes your centerpiece must contain at least one sprig of Holly. You may use candles, but they cannot be lit due to fire regulations. Prizes will be awarded to the judges' favourites.

Please bring the following items with you for the Potluck dinner:

- ◇ Plates & Cutlery
- ◇ Napkins
- ◇ Cups or Glassware
- ◇ Non-Alcoholic beverage
- ◇ Wrapped gift for exchange
- ◇ Potluck dish & Serving Spoon
- ◇ Food Bank Donation

Optional:

- ◇ Centerpiece for table
- ◇ Festive place mat



November Speaker:

Pat Spezowka

Hi, I am Pat Spezowka. My husband Alex and I moved to Mill Bay from Edmonton in June 2004 and it was the best move we have ever made in our lives.

A bit of background.

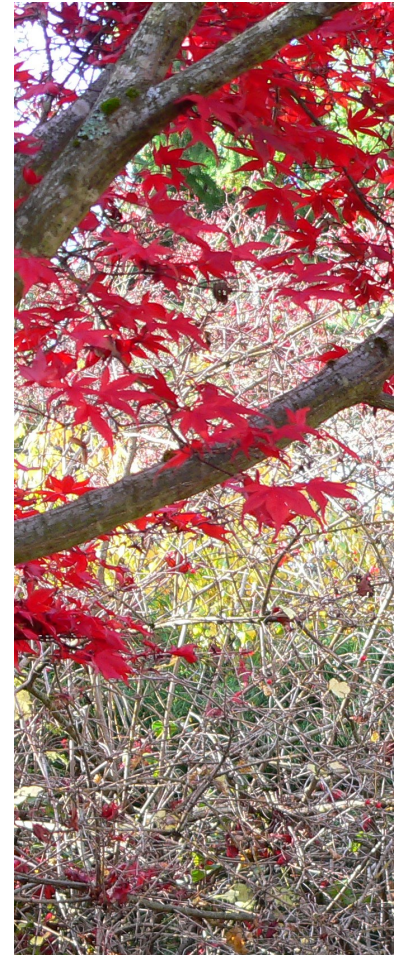
I began my life in Sask. and moved to AB after we were married where we raised our 3 children in Fort Saskatchewan which is just outside of Edmonton. I worked in a high school library there and also taught cake decorating. When our youngest started kindergarten I quit my job, went to college full time and became a graphic designer. After that The Edmonton Journal hired me and I worked in their marketing department for 20 years until I took early retirement.

I have never learned to sit back and relax in my spare time so I decided to pursue my love for flowers so I enrolled in evening classes in Floral Design and got my accreditation that way. It took me a couple of years but I earned my diploma. I also attended 2 summer sessions at the Agricultural College in Olds, Alberta where I took 2 levels of European design. Next I opened a small shop in our home where I did flowers for large events such as weddings and banquets. After my early retirement I worked in a flower shop in Edmonton until we moved here.

Since coming to Mill Bay we have run a B&B, I teach cake decorating and do special occasion cakes, and I also teach the Christmas Greens classes at Elder College in Duncan.

Thanks for inviting me to be your speaker at December's meeting. I look forward to showing you how to make a live tabletop Christmas tree and also use your tomato cages to construct a small tree for your front step or patio.

This photo is only a sample of what I will be teaching you. The trees I will be constructing are made with a mixture of fresh greens and not only one type as shown. I will also show you how to quickly hand decorate a pot for your tree and make a live garland for your tomato cage tree



Raffle : Carmel Haley

A very big thank you to the 3 local businesses who generously contributed to our October raffle table.

**~ DINTER NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER ~
~ HILLSIDE STONE & GARDEN ~
~ CHERRY POINT ESTATE WINES ~**

Your kindness is greatly appreciated!

Facebook

Pauline Dueck

Last month we received beautiful raffle gifts from several local businesses. Please consider heading over to their Facebook pages to thank them: **Dinter Nursery, Cherry Point Estate Wines, and Hillside Stone & Garden.** If you go to the Mill Bay Garden Club Facebook page, you can quickly find the links to their pages from a recent "thank you" that we posted. They are all good pages to "like" and follow as they post interesting gardening & community information on their pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub>



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!

Gardening Tips

By Barb Kohlman, Master Gardener



◆ Tips - November - December 2014

- ◆ Cold weather has probably got us all inside perusing gardening books and planning next year's plantings.
- ◆ Which is a good thing to be doing now
- ◆ Rake up all those leaves that the latest wind brought down and either put them in your leaf pile to break down over the winter into great leaf mulch for the garden next spring
- ◆ or just rake them straight onto your beds – protection from the winter rains and a good weed deterrent.
- ◆ A cover crop will work too-----maybe fava beans.
- ◆ Raise containers on “pot feet” to encourage good drainage and prevent waterlogging.
- ◆ Make sure your hummingbird feeders are brought in at night if frost is predicted and put them out first thing in the morning
- ◆ Store all your tools after cleaning and oiling wooden handles
- ◆ In my garden I have to start protecting plants against rabbits – they like to chew all through the winter and are definitely a nuisance when new shoots appear in spring
- ◆ Store tender plants or any in pots, that may suffer from the cold, in an unheated garage or greenhouse or under the eaves near the house wall.
- ◆ And dream of how your garden will look in spring!!!!!!!!!!

Dear Fellow Gardeners.

We are pleased to let you know that the **Mixing it Up in the Urban Garden 2015 Conference**, which will take place on January 31, 2015, is now **SOLD OUT**. The response from the gardening community has been phenomenal.

Best Wishes

Elaine Scott

Victoria Master Gardener Association.

Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting Minutes Tuesday October 28, 2014

President – Cliff Stainsby

- 7:00 p.m. Call to order.
- Acceptance of agenda.
- Motion to accept minutes of September's meeting:
 - Moved by Dianne
 - Seconded by Carmel
 - Carried
- Thank you to set up & kitchen crews. Signup sheet being circulated for help with setup and Christmas party.
- Membership asked for a show of hands as to whether they would be opposed to having candidates for the upcoming civic election speak at our meeting. Majority of members opposed.
- Community Flower Show requires a Chairperson. This needs to be done before we commit and pay for rental of the Cobble Hill Agricultural Hall. The show has been running for 65 years. Chairperson would coordinate meetings and keep track of what goes on and who does what. Setup for the show will be Friday June 12th, 2015 and the show will be Saturday June 13th, 2015.
- Christmas party is Tuesday December 9th with doors open at 5:30 for setup, dinner at 6pm, to finish at 9pm

Vice President – Joy Story

- We had an inquiry from a speaker wondering if the speaker could go first, before the business part of the meeting. The problem with having the speaker first is that members leave after the speaker and do not stay for the business portion of the meeting. The speaker has the option of not showing up until the second half of the meeting.

- November speaker is Pat Spezowka – Decorating for the Holidays.
- Dustin will be the speaker for May and will talk about mushrooms.
- Cliff Stainsby will be January's speaker and will present a slide show and talk about his unheated greenhouse and year round vegetable production.

Treasurer's Report – Gale McIntyre

- Mary Vandenberg is filling in for Gale tonight and reminds members to pay the annual membership dues to ensure they will continue receiving the newsletter.

Membership – Arlene Dench

- 26 renewals
- 5 new members
- 3 visitors

Newsletter – Mary Vandenberg

- Applause from membership regarding quality of newsletter Mary produces each month.

Facebook – Pauline Dueck

- Send your gardening photos to Pauline for her to post on our Facebook page.

Library – Janice Rose

- Lots of excellent books and magazines to borrow.

Plant Sales – Heather Jenkins

- Thank you for the plant and bay leaves donations this evening.

Historian – Mary Gale

- Thank you Pip and Janice for cards sent to me while I was feeling ill.

Members Forum

- Barb Kohlman & Elaine Scott remind us about the Victoria Master Gardener info session 6:30pm November 20th. The sessions begin in February 2015.
- Pip is looking for someone to take over 9 monthly submissions per year of 350 words each for our

October Minutes continued on page 7

gardening column in the South Cowichan Life Magazine.

- Pip tells us Nanaimo Master Gardener program runs for 12 weeks in Nanaimo.
- Dustin did a show and tell with mushrooms. The members gave Dustin a big thank you for the mushroom walk and tasting event he held for us at his property last month.
- Norman, one of our new members, brought fiddle seeds and delphinium seeds to be distributed to those who would like some.

Brag Table – Ali

- Fuchsia is her favorite plant as it blooms from July until frost.

Q & A – Joy Story

- Use fallen leaves to mulch your gardens.
- Plant your garlic now and fertilize with bone meal and coffee grinds.
- Joy introduced the new members and then asked all members to say hello to the person sitting beside them. This created lots of conversations between members which continued into the coffee break.

Coffee Break

Raffle – Carmel

- Marvelous and generous prizes from the community. Those businesses who donated were identified.

Speaker – Paul Wurz

- Some help Growing Rhododendrons
- Paul is the owner of Hidden Acres Rhododendrons in Campbell River.

Meeting adjourned 9:17 pm.

2015 Master Gardener Training Program, Victoria Master Gardener Association.

A reminder that the information session for the 2015 class will be held at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific classroom at 6:30 pm on Thursday, November 20.

This is a comprehensive program teaching current and reliable home gardening information to prepare participants to share their horticultural knowledge with the gardening public on a volunteer basis.

The 26 sessions start February 5, 2015 on Thursdays 6-9pm and Sundays 9-noon. The cost is \$625.00 which is less than \$8 per teaching hour as it includes all texts and handouts. Free parking is available. The course is held at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific which is a 35 to 40 minute drive from Mill Bay. If you decide to take the course and continue as a Master Gardener I can assure you that the Victoria Master Gardener Association is a fun and dynamic organization. This is the organization that offers the biannual Mixing It Up Conference and is dedicated to the continuing education of its members.

Contact Barb Kohlman or Elaine Scott if you would like any further information about the course and the program.

DAN HINKLEY

Renowned plantsman, plant collector, author, nurseryman, creator of Heronswood Nursery, owner of Windcliff Nursery and lecturer.

Will be speaking on

Plant Marriages: Exceptional Combinations of Foliage and Flower

Sunday, February 22, 2015

2:30 pm

Salavation Army Citadel

4030 Douglas Street

(north of McKenzie Avenue)

Presented by the Victoria Horticultural Society Hardy Plant Group.

Elizabeth England Lecture.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at Dig This Stores. However, Elaine Scott will have some tickets available for purchase at the November meeting. If the fact that the Mixing It Up Conference sold out nearly three months before the event is any indication, it will be prudent to buy your tickets early. They will also make a great Christmas Present.



*70th ARS
CONVENTION May 6-10, 2015.*

District #1, Victoria Rhododendron Society
Sidney-by-the-Sea: Vancouver Island's Hidden Little Treasure

Come join the spectacular seventieth celebration of the American Rhododendron Society, members worldwide, international speakers!

For registration and information on speakers, etc. go to

<http://2015rhodo.ca/>

The Wind in the Willows



Christmas Display in the Gardens at HCP • Nov 22-Dec 14

Featuring favourite characters
from Kenneth Grahame's beloved
children's stories.

Display donated
by Philip Nyren

PLUS: Specially decorated holiday
tables to inspire you!

Admission to display by donation

Regular admission to Gardens at HCP in effect.

9-4 Sat/Sun until Dec 14.



the gardens
at HCP
Horticulture Centre of the Pacific

505 Quayle Rd, Saanich
More info: 250.479.6162

www.hcp.ca





Milner Christmas Magic

**December 5-7, 12-14 & 17-21
5:00-8:30pm**

A family oriented festival of lights and music in the Garden.

Musicians:

Friday, Dec 5th	Cantando Chamber Singers
Saturday, Dec 6th	EveryBodySings
Sunday, Dec 7th	Spare Time
Friday, Dec 12th	Serendipity
Saturday, Dec 13th Quartet	Graffiti
Sunday, Dec 14th	Heart's Ease
Wed. Dec 17th	Brigitte Stephanie & Carol Fetherston & Margaret Nelson
Thurs, Dec 18th	Maureen Ohearn
Friday Dec 19th	Fouray Quartet
Saturday, Dec 20th	Pat Scrivener
Sunday, Dec 21st	McShane family

<http://www2.viu.ca/milnergardens/events.asp>

Phone:(250) 752-8573

Address: 2179 W Island Hwy, Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1G1

Seedy Saturday

'SOW THE SEEDS!'

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Admission by Donation www.qbseedysaturday.com



**Bring your seeds
for the seed swap
in the Lions' Room
QBSS 2015**

Saturday February 7, 2015

10:00 - 3:30

Vendors

Seed Swap

QB Farmers' Market

Shoots With Roots

Master Gardeners

Seedy Café

10:30 Diane Sharp

GROWING YOUR GROCERIES

12:00 Kate Green

SEEDS GROW MORE THAN FOOD

1:30 **GARDENING PANEL:**

Kathy Claxton

Candace Coghill

Kim Hammond