



# MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.millbaygardenclub.com](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com) Email: [mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com)

**FEBRUARY 2015**

## Next Meeting

**February 24, 2015**

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

## February Brag Table Theme:



## **WARMING THE HEART**

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

## **FEBRUARY SPEAKER:**

**Ryan Senechal**

**Backyard Orchards**

## **May Kitchen Duties:**

**Dianne Regan**

1 litre of 2% milk:

Shirley Durand

Cookies/ Goodies:

Betty Underwood, Penny Jones,

Margo Johnston

Kitchen Helpers:

Mary-Ellen Deuling, Kathy Edmunds

Set up / Clean Up:

Fran Benton, Kathy Code, Marion Johnston,

Paddy Harris

**Remember to bring your mug!**



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



## Vice-President's Report

### Joy Story

This Month's Speaker:

**Ryan Senechal** is a Victoria-based Consulting Arborist with BC Plant Healthcare and has been training different groups on arboriculture topics for over 5 years. He speaks to a range of skills in the community as well as to industry professionals. Ryan has been providing all aspects of tree care for over a decade to coastal BC, Toronto/Niagara and London, England.



Link for BC Plant Health care: <http://bcplanthealthcare.com/>

## Flower and Garden Show

### Bernie Juurlink – Chairperson

The Flower and Garden Show committee is made up of a team of volunteers who together run the show. Bernie is still in need of some Committee members. If you are interested in working with a great group of people email Bernie .

Later on there will be sign up sheets for volunteers for the day of the show.

## Raffle

### Carmel Haley

Dear Members,

We are always in need of raffle items each month. If you wish to contribute something to our monthly raffle table it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Carmel or Bobbie , or bring the item with you to the next meeting.

We appreciate your support!

**Thank you to these local businesses for helping make our January raffle table a big success:**



## Gardening Tips

By Barb Kohlman, Master Gardener

Tips for Feb / March 2015



### Pruning cane-growing shrubs

Examples: Abellias, Allspices, Beautyberries, Chokeberries, Flowering quinces, Forsythias, Kerrias, Lilacs, Mock oranges, Ninebarks, Privets, Redtwig dogwoods, Rose of Sharons, Shrubby St. John's worts, Shrub roses, Smoke bushes, Spireas, Viburnums, Weigelas.

**When overgrown:** older stems are less productive, and more susceptible to disease and insects.

Don't shear them into hedges, this destroys their natural vase shape.

Periodically thin out the oldest stems to the ground .

This should be done in **early spring** for later blooming varieties (this year, now, perhaps)

and **after flowering** for early blooming shrubs.

**Use the 1/4 to 1/3 rule.** For very strong shrubs you can remove 1/3 of the old wood at a time.

**Start by removing the 3 D's : DEAD** (these don't count as part of your 1/3), **DAMAGED** and **DISEASED**

Next remove the oldest stems (opens up the structure allowing air and sun into the shrub for good health).

If you have removed less than a 1/3 live wood, you can now remove the balance of the allowed amount by randomly pruning out a few more stems to the ground, with the objective of improving the balance of the shrub.

Pile your live-wood cuttings next to where you are working, keep an eye on when you have accumulated 1/4 to 1/3. and then **STOP.**

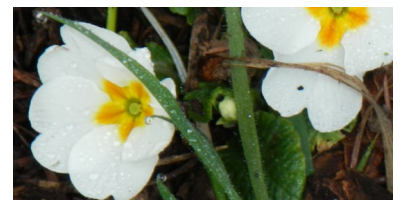
Next year continue the process. In 3-4 seasons you will have a completely rejuvenated shrub, looking great.

**OR IF ALL ELSE FAILS USE THE "HEART ATTACK" METHOD -CUT THE WHOLE SHRUB TO 1"-2" FROM THE GROUND** and watch it grow back. Only do this to strong growing shrubs and be sure to water well and treat this shrub to a layer of compost, spread under its canopy.

## Millennium Garden Clean-up



**Mark your calendars.** Clean-up volunteers needed in the garden at the hall **Saturday March 7th 10-noon.** It's a great way to get to know your fellow club members!



## **Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting Minutes Tuesday January 27, 2015**

### **President – Cliff Stainsby**

- 7:03 p.m. Call to order.
- Acceptance of agenda.
- No minutes for December meeting.
- Thank you to set up crew.
- Signup sheet for kitchen duty has been filled.
- There are a number of members stepping down from the general (executive) committee including:
  - President (end of term)
  - Vice President
  - Plant Sales
  - Treasurer
  - Kitchen
  - Newsletter
  - Membership

Become an active member, meet people, get involved. Committee meets second Tuesday of every month, except July and August, for 1 – 1 ½ hours.

Joy Story is head of the search committee.

- Millennial Garden Clean up is Saturday March 7th 10 – noon. 5 or 6 volunteers required.
- Seedy Saturday is March 14<sup>th</sup> 10 – 3 at Cobble Hill Agricultural Hall. A table has been reserved for the club. We need a couple of volunteers – contact Cliff. Come later, it will be less busy so you can chat to Vendors and get your questions answered.
- Membership Dues are due in September. If you can't pay at that time, please pay by January as that is the cutoff date.
- Winter Tour at HCP organized for Saturday March 21, 2015. 43 members have indicated they will be going. Participants to meet at Mill Bay Community Hall at 10:15am for car pooling. The 2 hour tour will begin at 11:00am. Lunch at 2pm. Optional Nourish lunch menu for \$19.50 includes

soup & sandwich, tea, coffee and dessert.

### **Community Flower and Garden Show – Chairman Bernie Juurlink June 12 & 13, 2015**

Volunteers needed for:

- Organizing the judging which is done Friday night.
- Silent auction organizer.
- Printing of signs, programs and judging forms.
- Publicity and promotion
- Outside Vendor contact.
- Photographer/videographer.

Current committee members include Janice Rose, Dianne Regan and Cliff Stainsby. Former Chairperson, Monika Morgan, is willing to help from the sidelines. First meeting is 7pm February 2<sup>nd</sup>,. Donations from last year's show included \$2500 divided between the SPCA, Foodbank and Women's shelter.

### **Vice President – Joy Story**

- Apologies for not being able to make the commitment to be President next season. Please become part of the executive, they're a great group and it's lots of fun.
- February speaker is Ryan Senechal, Backyard Orchards. He will talk about fruit tree pruning.
- Consider adding your garden to the Spring & Summer Garden Tour.
- Dustin and Connie have agreed to be part of the executive search committee.

### **Treasurer's Report – Gale McIntyre**

- \$1934.87 balance.
- \$171 membership dues paid to BC Council of Gardens.

### **Membership – Arlene Dench**

- 8 renewals
- 6 new members

### **Facebook: Pauline Dueck**

- Send plant sales or garden tour information to post on facebook.

*Continued on page 5*



**Library – Janice Rose**

- Current Fine Gardening magazine article on how to make your veggie garden pretty.

**Members Forum**

- Mary Gale mentions the Victoria Horticultural Society event Sunday February 22, 2015 2:30pm, Salvation Army Citadel in Victoria. 200 tickets available for \$20/each. A ticket is being raffled off tonight.
- Beth Lecheron tells us Carolyn Webb is Chairperson of Seedy Saturday and this year there will be a gardening recycling exchange, by donation with the leftovers given to the Cowichan Green Community Society.
- Grow Food gardening course with Joy Story runs in February, March and April 23 & 25. Grow sprouts by purchasing organic seeds. Use a mason jar with a screen on top. Rinse the seeds twice a day. Mung beans and sweet peas will sprout. Sunflower seeds sprout, then you plant them out and eat the green tops.

**Brag Table – Barb Kohlman**

- Cosmopolitan rhodo has been blooming since November. Camellia Yuletide single flower is the best.

**Q & A – Bill Herring**

- Early season this year. Shallots and garlic are up. Get potatoes in now. Weed now.
- Slugs like mild damp weather. To discourage them use copper wire - slugs won't cross over because it shocks them. Egg shells, soot and sand also work as deterrents. Bushy grass and rock piles encourage snakes and they eat slugs. Beetles like leaf mulch and will eat slugs.
- Seaweed is a good mulch to put on the gardens in October, November.

It contains trace elements not found in cow manure.

**Coffee Break**

**Speaker – Cliff Stainsby**

- Year round greenhouse gardening.
- Slide show of Cliff's polytunnel which provides food year round.

Meeting adjourned 9:05 pm.

## Hello Fellow Food Growers....

Grow Food is offering its first of the season Organic Gardening Classes.

Grow Food with JOY!

2 Parts - Monday Feb. 23 and Wednesday Feb 25

Cowichan Green Community

Duncan, BC

6:30 – 8:30 pm

\$20.00 per class.



### Monday night:

In the first class we will cover “ Getting Started by Planting Seeds.”

What to plant this time of year, how to plant seeds, what seeds to direct sow and the needs of the most popular crops while they do grow.

### Wednesday night:

The second class will focus on the “Health of your Soil” Plants are directly affected by nutrient availability in your soil. How to improve your soil through composting, lasagna gardening, compost teas, mulching, and growing your own natural fertilizers.

Register before February 26 by emailing [growfood@shaw.ca](mailto:growfood@shaw.ca) or call 250-743-0414.

Please pass this notice on to anyone you think might be interested in growing their own food.

Thanks

Joy Story

**For a complete list of Events (some are free) go to**

**Courses at: [www.growfoodnetwork.com](http://www.growfoodnetwork.com)**

## Victoria Seedy Saturday

**Saturday February 21, 2015 10 to 4**  
**Victoria Conference Centre, 750 Douglas Street**  
**Victoria, BC**

Spring is here and time to plan the garden! Come for local/BC organic and heritage seeds direct from the growers. Small nurseries will have native plants, succulents, perennials, olive/nut/heritage apple trees, seedlings, and fruiting plants. There are artisanal food tastings and local businesses with garden products/services. Displays by garden clubs and environmental organizations will update you on their latest programs and activities. The Kids' activity area always appeals to children, and offers a bit of quiet space for parents and the very young ones. And the Master Gardeners are always eager to research those tough garden questions.

If you saved any seeds from last year, we welcome them at the community seed exchange. And if you have any used gardening books you no longer need/want, bring them to swap.

As always, there is an extensive free speaker series, with concurrent hourly talks. Caution: come early to the session of your choice to ensure a seat, as most rooms fill quickly.

NEW!

.CRFAIR panel and roundtables: learn of new and exciting initiatives about growing food in the city.

.Worm Composting workshop for 5 - 8 year olds (limit 30 children)

.Hands-on Seed Cleaning workshop (bring any of your own seed to clean, and the presenter will have seeds, too), limit 30 people.

.Film showing of "Open Sesame: the story of seeds". (\$2 for the film only)

There is an ATM on site, and a cafe offering light lunches and refreshments.

Come for your seeds, inspiration, education and networking!

Contact: [vicseedysat@gmail.com](mailto:vicseedysat@gmail.com)

## Duncan Seedy Sunday

**Sunday March 8, 2015 10am-2pm**  
**Cowichan Tribes Gymnasium Si'em Lelum, 5574 River Road**  
**Duncan, BC**

Admission is by donation (\$2.00). This event will feature local seed vendors, live plant and garden vendors, a seed exchange, a series of garden workshops, kids' activities, and community information booths.

Contact: 250-748-8506 or [info@cowichangreencommunity.org](mailto:info@cowichangreencommunity.org)



**Fraser's**  
**Thimble Farms**

*The rare plant specialist*

175 Arbutus Road, Salt Spring Island  
(250) 537-5788 <http://www.thimblefarms.com/>

**HELLEBORGANZA**

**FEBRUARY 13th - March 31st 2015**

Open 7days a week 9:00am -4:30pm

**Our Hellebore Extravaganza**





# Cobble Hill's 15th annual Seedy Saturday

Saturday 14th March from 10 am to 3 pm

Cobble Hill Hall, 3550 Watson Avenue,  
in the heart of Cobble Hill Village

Celebrate our '100 Mile Spring' with  
organic & heritage seeds  
plant starts for food & flowers  
bulbs & tubers, figs & ferns  
mason bees & their houses  
garden furniture & gardeners' bodycare  
permaculture & master gardeners  
seed exchange & kiddies' plant fun  
inspiration & authenticity!

FREE entry for all • good food by the Womens' Institute  
presented by the Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers' Institute  
for information please call 250-743-7305 or 250-743-8036

our thanks to Cowichan Press





## **VANCOUVER ISLAND HEATHER SOCIETY SPRING HEATHER SALE.**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015**

Plan to attend the annual Vancouver Island Heather Society's spring sale on Saturday March 28 at the Cobble Hill Farmer's 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 1500 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, we will have a variety of grasses for sale this year. 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 .

## **HCP Continuing Education**

**505 Quayle Rd. Victoria 250-479-6162**

### **The Fruitful Garden –Susan Wright and Darryl Clark**

#### **Date/Time**

Date(s) - Feb 28, 2015

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Unsure how to prune your fruit trees? Want to grow your own berries but not sure if they will thrive in your garden? Our interactive class and hands-on exercises will give you the tools to evaluate your yard, choose appropriate fruiting shrubs, vines, and trees, and prune them to meet your growing objectives.

Saturday, February 7, 14, 21, 28

9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Members \$120 for 4 sessions

#### **New this Spring! Wild Spring Salads...and other early season foods.**

Sunday March 8, 9 am—noon

With Katherine Harding

Cost: \$25

#### **For More information on HCP classes go to:**

[Community Education - HCP](#)

Compost Education Centre Workshops 1216 North Park Call  
250 386 9676 to register or go to:

[Compost Education Centre](#)

# Hellebore Sunday



**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sale**

of unusual cultivars & the information to grow them!

12- 3 pm

Gardens at HCP  
505 Quayle Road

250-479-6162 [www.hcp.ca](http://www.hcp.ca)