



# MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

**MARCH 2015**

## Next Meeting

**March 24, 2015**

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



## March Brag Table Theme:

### **MARCH MADNESS-Anything Goes**

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:

### **Hardy Orchids**

**Richard Fraser of  
Fraser's Thimble Farm**



## March Kitchen Duties:

**Dianne Regan**

1 litre of 2% milk:

S. Walter

Cookies/ Goodies:

Bonnie Mills, Paddy Harris, Marie Cooke

Kitchen Helpers:

Barb Kohlman, Fran Benton

Set up / Clean Up:

Joan Nott, Pat Stevens, Marion Johnston



**DON'T  
FORGET!**

**BRING YOUR  
MUG FOR THE BREAK**

## MARCH SPEAKER

### Richard Fraser of Fraser's Thimble Farm on Salt Spring Island



Richard's topic is Hardy Orchids. Rumour has it he is bringing stock with him. Bring some cash with you, so you can take advantage of getting these plants without going over to Salt Spring.

Have a look at his website. [Thimblefarms.com](http://Thimblefarms.com)

His Nursery on Salt Spring is well worth a visit. They have an amazing array of plants such as Hellebores, Hardy Orchids, Ferns, etc. His website gives you a good feel for the inventory he carries.

## SILENT AUCTION

### Norman Redcliffe

It is my pleasure to chair the Silent Auction committee charged with bringing in the donations from members and local corporations for this year's Community Flower and Garden Show Silent Auction.

Several of our regular donor companies are telling us that they are inundated with requests for donations from the many other organisations trying to raise money. I am therefore taking Monika Morgan's (my predecessor in this role) suggestion that we appeal more to our own membership for their help in making the Auction a success.

So please help us by donating some of your own handiwork, (crafts, woodwork, sculptures, baking, art work, pictures, stained glass, knitwear etc). Everything is most welcome. We don't have space for large pieces of furniture, but vintage household goods, objects d'art etc, you no longer have a use for, and which you think would sell, are welcome. The Executive has warned me this is not a garage sale though!

Are there members out there that have recently made a substantial purchase, who would feel comfortable approaching that business for a donation ?

Last year the Club raised about \$4,000 from the Silent Auction and made substantial donations to the Mill Bay Food Bank, The Women's Shelter and the SPCA. With your help we hope to equal or surpass last years results.

Norman Redcliffe

Please contact me



## Raffle

Carmel Haley

A special thank you to ***Todd Gesshe***  
(Arborist) for donating a certificate for a  
consultation.

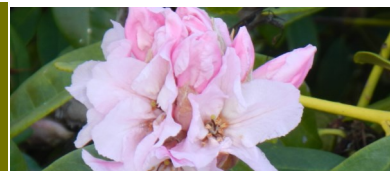
And thank you ***Don McDowell*** for the  
nice bucket of Alpaca manure. :)

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!



## MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE

**JUNE 13, 2015**

Your plant sale committee would like to remind you to begin potting up plants for the sale now as you are busy cleaning up your garden after the winter. This will ensure that the roots of the plants are well established by the time we have the sale in June. 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.

If each of us only 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 would 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.

Elaine Scott on  
behalf of your plant  
sale committee.



## Gardening Tips

By Barb Kohlman, Master Gardener



Tips for March/April 2015

- ◆ Because of our very warm spring I am looking more to April gardening tips!!!!!!!!!!!!
- ◆ Having said that, if you haven't trimmed back all your warm season grasses better get it done before the new shoots grow and make the job much harder, also sword ferns and their like.
- ◆ If you have little blooming in your garden, you may want to add:  
bulbs for next year – *Anemone blanda*, *Erythronium* spp., *Frittilaria imperialis*, species tulips.  
Perennials – *Pulsatilla vulgaris*, *Aubrieta deltoides*, *Pulmonaria*.
- ◆ When finished blooming, deadhead your daffodils, to prevent energy going into seed production.
- ◆ Divide primulas after flowering.
- ◆ Edge your flower beds – they look so “spiffy” when this is done and our grass has been cut !!
- ◆ You can mulch with about 2” of compost now as the soil has warmed up enough – again very early for this.
- ◆ Think about stakes for those tall and floppy perennials – and actually get them in place!!!!
- ◆ Roses can be pruned – the forsythia is blooming.
- ◆ Shear winter blooming heathers after flowering.
- ◆ Good time to plant trees and shrubs. Evergreen and conifer hedges can be clipped now.

**That should keep you busy !!!!!!!!!!!!!**

### FREE

Two single pane sliding glass doors (6'X6'8") and several single pane sliding glass windows.

Available early April. They are quite old, with aluminum frames, but they would make excellent cold frame covers.

If interested, contact Norman and Gwen Redcliffe

### GO GREEN

**Purchase a permanent  
MBGC name tag from Gale  
McIntyre for only \$10 cash!**

### Library Report

**Our friendly librarian,  
Janice Rose**

Notes from the library.

Come and check out the latest additions to our library. There are many new books and publications for every interest level from growing vegetables in the winter, to new ways of composting, to growing stunning flowers and even arranging flowers. We even have a book on raising chickens in your garden!



## **Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting Minutes Tuesday February 24, 2015**

### **President – Cliff Stainsby**

- 7 p.m. Call to order.
- Acceptance of agenda.
- Motion to accept minutes for January meeting.
  - Moved by Norman.
  - Seconded by John Dench
- Thank you to set up crew.
- Signup sheet for kitchen duty - March & April circulated and filled.
- Millennial Garden Clean up is Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 – noon.
- Signup sheet circulated for HCP tour Saturday March 21, 2015 11am, lunch @ 2pm. No car pooling required so meet at HCP. Optional lunch by Nourish \$20.
- Marie Cooke wants us to know the Lake-Bay-Hill Association (LBHA) which is part of the Cowichan Hospital Auxiliary, is hosting a Lemon & Lavender Tea on Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 4 at the Mill Bay Community League Hall. Free admission, \$7 lunch includes tea, dainty sandwiches and sweets. Baking & crafts for sale.

### **Vice President – Joy Story**

- Candidates for all available executive and committee positions have come forward including:
  - Pip Woodcock – President
  - Skye Powell – Membership
  - Marie Cook – Treasurer
  - Mary Ellen Deuling – Kitchen
  - Cori-Lee – Newsletter
  - Norman Redcliffe – Vice President
  - Monika Morgan – Plant Sales
- March speaker will be Richard Fraser, Thimble Farm; he will talk on hardy Orchids.
- April speaker will be Linda Gilkeson, Gardening in a Changing Climate.

- Fran & Julie Wilson will share responsibility for writing the monthly article for South Cowichan News.
- Joan Nott has volunteered to help Joy Story run workshops for the Flower & Garden Show.
- David Morgan has volunteered to help Norman Redcliffe with the silent auction excel worksheet for Flower & Garden Show Silent Auction.

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

- \$2080.78 balance.

### **Membership – Arlene Dench**

- 6 new members
- 3 guests

### **Library – Monika Morgan**

- For new members - lending rules - you may sign out any of the many books and magazines available to be returned at the next meeting.

### **Website - Kerry Davis**

- Looking for someone to take over this position. Involves an hour each month.

### **Historian – Mary Gale**

- 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. February 14, 1985 was the pilot meeting for Mill Bay Garden Club. 15 people interested. 86 people showed up for the second meeting.
- 4 get well cards sent last month.

### **Members Forum**

- Beth Lischeron has Seedy Saturday posters available for those who can post them.
- Heather Jenkins recommends "End All" to get rid of scale.

### **Community Flower and Garden Show Chairman Bernie Juurlink**

- Volunteers have come forward for the following positions:
  - Diane Wiggin - judging
  - Norman Redcliffe - silent auction, Bonnie to help Norman

*Minutes continued on page 6*

*February Minutes cont'd from page 5*

- Cori-Lee – signs & promo
- Mary Ellen Deuling - Outside Vendors
- Angie – setup & takedown
- Photographer/videographer – still required

**Brag Table – Barb Kohlman**

**Q & A – Bill Herring**

- Correction to last month's minutes – Bill told us to chit our potatoes not plant them.
- To chit potatoes you place seed potatoes in egg crates with eyes at the top, in an area providing reasonable temperature and light and in one month there will be an inch of purple/green roots growing.
- Bill planted his potatoes today, which is early. If you have light soil you can plant early.
- Bill plants peas in the greenhouse on Boxing Day and when they reach 1/2" height they are acclimatized for planting outside in February along with parsnip seeds which require frost to start them and take up to a month to germinate.
- Plant potatoes in early March.
- Plant early and don't water too much as this will force seedlings to grow roots down to reach water which makes for stronger plants.

***Coffee Break***

**Raffle – Bobbi Burns**

**Speaker – Ryan Senechal, BC Plant Health Care**

- Backyard Orchards

Meeting adjourned 9pm.

# GROW FOOD



with **JOY!**

## **GROW YOUR OWN FOOD**

3 Part Organic Gardening Course

Thursdays March 26, April 2, 9th

The Hub, Cowichan Station

6:30 - 8:30 pm

\$60.00 for all 3

for more info or to register: **250-743-0414**

**growfood@shaw.ca**





## **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

## **Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society**

**Linda Gilkeson** will be speaking at our April 1st meeting. Her topic is **Insects of Rhododendrons and Woodland Plants.** This topic will interest a number of your members and we would like to extend an invitation to have your club join us at our meeting.

We meet **Wednesday April 1 at 7:30 pm at St. John's Anglican Church Hall** on the corner of Jubilee St. and First St. in Duncan.

Also, we have two seats available on our **UK Bus Tour, May 14 to 25.** The details are on our website at [Cowichan.rhodos.ca](http://Cowichan.rhodos.ca) and a more detailed description and contact information can be found in our newsletter at the same website.

One more exciting announcement is our international convention in May. I would welcome your club to visit our website (events) for our **2015 American Rhododendron International Convention** information. This event will be held at the **Mary Winspear Center May 6 to 10, 2015.** We have seven wonderful International Rhodo experts speaking, bus tours, plant sales and more. The best part is this international convention that the world will be coming to is practically in our back yard. Early bird rates for registration are still in effect, though some of the bus tours have already filled.



# Lemon & Lavender



# Tea

Hosted by the  
**Lake-Bay-Hill Auxiliary**  
Branch of the Cowichan District Hospital Auxiliary

**Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> 2015**

At the  
**Mill Bay Community Hall**  
(Beside the Arena)

**2PM - 4PM**

Free admission

**Lunch Tickets \$7**

Including tea, dainty sandwiches and sweets.

Featuring:

Lunch, Baking and Crafts

Mini Auctions

COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

# PLANT SALE

St. John's Church Hall, 486 Jubilee Street, Duncan  
(corner of Jubilee & First Streets)



Sale Convenor - Esther Craig (250) 246-2422 • [www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com](http://www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com) • [cvgcspringshowandplantsale@gmail.com](mailto:cvgcspringshowandplantsale@gmail.com)

## BIRGIT PISKOR, Sculptor

I am having a **huge plant sale** this **April 18 and `19th**.

I am getting rid of my garden, at least in its current incarnation, and have **almost 2000** (mostly 1, some 2-gallon) **perennials** that will be available.

There will be one more sale next spring and that will be that!

It's a bit bittersweet but I am very excited to implement the changes and am sure the new garden will also be very beautiful but low, low maintenance.

**April 18 + 19**

**10-2 each day**

**570 Niagara Street, Victoria**

**250.858.4334**

There will also be select garden sculpture on sale including a limited number of large spheres which will be half price for this weekend only

**Here are a couple of comments on her garden:**

"Brigit is a local Victoria artist. She has/had :) a wonderful garden full of treasures. I am sure your members will enjoy this sale" Rima Gardner, Hardy plant group.

"I have been in this garden - pretty amazing - and some choice plants I would think." Barb Kohlman



**MILL BAY PLANTAHOLICS  
PLANT SALE  
SATURDAY, APRIL 25,  
2015**

The Mill Bay Plantaholics are four of your Garden Club members who happen to enjoy plants - Ali Morris, Barb Kohlman, Sharon Martin and Elaine Scott. The annual sale will take place on Saturday, April 25 from 9am to 2 pm . The proceeds from the sale will be divided between the Malawi Girls on the Move program (where the money will provide a scholarship for a young Malawian woman, Agnes Chazeza, to complete her third year of secondary school education) and Somenos Transition House - a program of the Cowichan Women Against Violence Society. Members of the Victoria Master Gardener Association will be on hand to answer your gardening questions.

**We would really appreciate help setting up the day before the sale. If you would be able to help us could you please let Elaine Scott know.**

For more information



contact Elaine Scott

**11-12 April Camosun College/Royal Roads Plant Sale Sat & Sun 10-4pm 2005 Sooke Rd.  
Perennials, Herbs & Vegetable Starts**

**14 April Victoria Flower Arrangers Guild Presents Hitomi Gilliam renowned Floral Designer & Author Tues 6:30—10pm Garth Homer Centre 813 Darwin Contact Connie Smith at 250 818 2156 for ticket info . Tickets \$50**



# The Alpine Gardeners of Central Vancouver Island

present

## David Sellars



To speak on

**Picos de Europa:**

**The Alpine Garden of the Cantabrian Mountains &  
Where to find alpine flowers in the Olympic Mountains**



**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 1-3 p.m.**

**(doors open 12:30),**

**QUALICUM BEACH CIVIC CENTRE,  
747 JONES, Q.B.**

**\$5 at door includes entry in prize draw &  
coffee/tea**

**The speaker will have plants for sale.**

**Picos de Europa:** At the end of May 2014 David and Wendy Sellars joined the Saxifrage Society field trip to the Picos de Europa in Northern Spain. While the primary focus of the trip was to identify endemic Saxifrages, the amazing floral diversity of the area was an added attraction. The presentation will feature alpine and meadow plants of the Picos including many that can be grown on the west coast. Photos will include *Fritillaria pyrenaica*, *Lilium pyrenaicum*, three Narcissus species, the endemic *Erysimum duriaei* and spectacular orchids (*Orchis ustulata* pictured above left).

**Olympic Mountains:** The presentation will focus on routes in the Olympics to locate endemic alpiners and other special plants.

**David Sellars** is an award winning photographer and writer and regular contributor to several alpine journals. He is also an avid mountain hiker and President of the Alpine Garden Club of B.C.

Info? Valerie: 250-594-4423 or  
Melanson.valerie@gmail.com

