



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

APRIL 2015

Next Meeting

April 28, 2015

The April meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on Tuesday, April 28th 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 SPEAKER:

Linda Gilkeson

**Gardening in a
Changing Climate**



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



April Brag Table Theme:

**Buds 'N
Blooms**



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 Kitchen Duties:

Dianne Regan

1 litre of 2% milk:

Shelagh John

Cookies/ Goodies:

Betty Underwood, Penny Jones,

Celine Eggleston, Ann Baty

Kitchen Helpers:

Anela Witherspoon, Mary-Ellen Deuling

Set up / Clean Up:

Monika Morgan, Kelly Slade, Julie Wilson,

Pat Stevens

Remember to bring your mug!



Vice-President's Report

Joy Story

This month's speaker is **Linda Gilkeson**:

Her Topic: **Resilient Gardens in a Changing Climate**

Our regional climate is changing as the global climate changes--but what does this mean for our gardens and landscapes? Learn how to design resilient food and ornamental gardens, choose suitable varieties, how to help your plants survive 'weird weather' and other management tips that will help you become an adaptable gardener.

Raffle—Carmel Haley

A special appreciation goes out to our members for their awesome donations last month:

Cathy Villeneuve

~ **Maple Hollow Farms** ~ **2 dozen delicious fresh eggs**

~

Celine Eggleston

~ **beautiful potted hyacinth** ~



THANK YOU to these businesses for helping make our March raffle table a big success:



We are always in need of raffle items each month. If you wish to contribute to our monthly raffle table and have something you think members would find interesting or useful, or perhaps the fruits of your labour -from your garden or farm, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Carmel or Bobbie, or bring the item with you to the next meeting.

We appreciate your support :)

Library Report

Janice Rose



Notes from the Library

Four new books will be added to our collection this month. Many thanks to Anita Gilmour for her terrific suggestions. The Intelligent Gardener by Steve Solomon firmly establishes the link between healthy soil and healthy food. This is a complex, stimulating and fascinating read. Edible Landscaping with A Permaculture Twist or How to have your Yard and Eat it too by Michael Judd has many good ideas and lots of photos. Drip Irrigation For Every Landscape and All Climates by Robert Kourik is a welcome addition and finally a hilarious book by Susan Watkins called Garden Madness is down right entertaining!

Please remember to return all your books so others may enjoy them too.

Your friendly Librarian,

Janice Rose



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE

JUNE 13, 2015

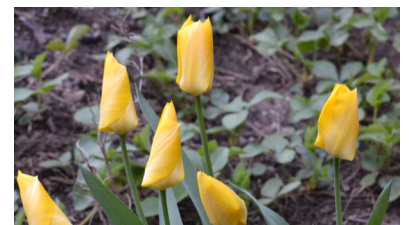
Well your Plant Sale Committee is assuming that you have been very busy potting up plants for the annual plant sale on June 13. In the next newsletter we will provide you with information on where to drop off the plants prior to the sale and when to drop them off. However, the sooner you pot the plants up the more time they have to properly root before we sell them.

In order to have a really good plant sale we depend on our members to donate plants to the sale. Full tables of great plants for sale really brings in the buyers but also helps us to promote the Mill Bay Garden Club - as does the entire flower show which is always a wonderful annual event. You would be surprised at the number of people who come up and ask us about the Garden Club at the sale table and Mary Gale and Ruby Armour are two of our best promoters as they are busy working the cashier table.

As usual, we would kindly ask that you refrain from donating invasive plants and the Committee does have the prerogative to remove those plants that it considers to be invasive. However, you may be wondering what is considered to be invasive. I am sure that Heather Jenkins, Ali Morris and Barb Kohlman would be very willing to answer any questions you may have in that regard.

The Committee thanks you in advance for all of those wonderful donated plants that we are just sure that you are potting up.

Elaine Scott on behalf of your Plant Sale Committee.





Gardening Tips

By Barb Kohlman, Master Gardener

Tips for April / May 2015

- ◆ Deadhead the finished daffodils to prevent formation of seed and so that all the energy from photosynthesis now goes toward storing food for next year's flowers. Fertilize bulbs that have finished flowering to encourage good bloom for next season, and leave foliage till it dies back naturally.
- ◆ Prune spring flowering shrubs that are now finished blooming. First dead, diseased and damaged-----then dumb!!!!!!!!!!!! and oldest ¼ out -----at the base for vase-shaped shrubs.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Cut down group C Clematis to about 12". These are the late blooming clematis that bloom on new wood.
- ◆ Divide and transplant (or pot up for the Flower and Garden Show plant sale) summer and fall bloomers.
- ◆ Check for aphids--- spray off with a strong jet of water (especially under the leaves) and repeat after 2 days to catch the ones missed.
- ◆ Remove seed heads from flower-finished rhodos and mulch lightly (about 1 inch) of good compost---we have had a somewhat dry spring so make sure they have adequate water.
- ◆ Feed tomato plants, remove side shoots, and plant out after about the 15th of the month (May).
- ◆ AND STILL WE WEED!!!! Remember that mulches help with this problem – 2" of compost now that the soil has warmed up.

AGM June 23, 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The AGM and Potluck Dinner is on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Mike and Bonnie Mills have very kindly offered their home for the AGM. More details to follow in the May Newsletter.



68th Annual Community Flower and Garden Show Saturday June 13, 2015 Silent Auction *Member Donation Request*

The **Mill Bay Garden Club** has a long tradition of contributing to those less fortunate in the Cowichan Valley area, and the Club's 2015 Silent Auction Committee is asking for the support of members for the **Community Flower and Garden Show** to be held on June 13, 2015. Last year, 82 generous donors contributed more than 100 items to the Silent Auction and after our show costs, we were able to donate \$2,500 to the **Mill Bay Food Bank, Somenos House** and **SPCA Cowichan**.

We hope to increase our charitable contribution this year to \$3250 with your help.

Sixteen of our 2014 donors were club members, many of whom contributed a number of items! Member donations included planters, garden art & accessories, glass art, photographic art and paintings. Other suggested donations might be: garden tools or equipment, heritage seeds, home baking or preserves, or patio furniture/décor items.

Gifts to **Mill Bay Garden Club's Silent Auction** will be recognized in the following manner:

- Name exposure to more than 350 attendees at the Silent Auction
- Credit in our club newsletter which reaches over 150 active members
- Acknowledgment on our club website and Facebook page
- Most importantly, the grateful thanks from the organizations and individuals who benefit from your support!

Requests for anonymity will be respected.

Thank you very much for considering our appeal. Please call one of us and we will arrange to pick-up your donation (and donation form – attached).

Silent Auction Donation Form is on the next page.



Community Flower and Garden Show Silent Auction *Member Donation Form*

For Donor Use	
Date of Gift:	
Donor Name:	
Contact Name:	
Donor Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Gift Description:	
Gift Value:	

For Club Use Only			
Date Rec'd:			
Rec'd by:		Winning Amnt:	
Item No:		Winner Name:	
Min. Bid:		Paid Date:	
Bid Increments:		Cash or Cheque:	
Committee Member Name:			
Committee Member Contact Info:			



Mill Bay Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday March 24, 2015

Vice President – Joy Story

- 7 p.m. Call to order.
- Acceptance of agenda.
- Motion to accept minutes for February meeting.
 - Moved by Mary Gale
 - Seconded by Megan O'Hara
- Thank you to set up crew.
- Signup sheet for kitchen duty and set up crew circulated.
- Thank you Barb Kohlman for being our guide at HCP garden tour.
- Bonnie Mills will be hosting this year's AGM at her home.
- Tonight's speaker is Richard Fraser, Thimble Farms, he will talk on hardy Orchids.
- April speaker will be Linda Gilkeson, Gardening in a Changing Climate. May's speaker will be Dustin.
- John McDowell is in hospital after suffering a stroke. Ajay will ask his family if there is anything the garden club can do to help out.

Historian – Mary Gale

- Get well cards sent to Tom Murray and John McDowell.
- Sympathy card sent to David Cassidy.

Treasurer's Report – Gale McIntyre

- \$1693.52 balance.

Membership – Arlene Dench

- 1 renewal
- Please ensure Arlene has your current email address.

Raffle – Carmel Haley & Bobbie Burns

- Rusticana and Shar Care will donate to raffle table each meeting.

Library – Janice Rose

- New books, requests taken.

- A book on flower arranging has been ordered from the UK.

Facebook – Pauline Dueck

- Send your pictures of the HCP tour for posting on our facebook page.

Members Forum

- Norman Redcliffe is giving away 3 sets of sliding doors.
- Elaine Scott
 - March 28th - Heather & Grass sale 10-noon at the Farmers Institute Hall in Cobble Hill 1500 plants.
 - April 18th - Monika, Sharon, Allie and Deanne are having a plant, bird houses and garden ornaments sale at and for Cairnsmore.
 - April 25th - Allie, Sharon, Barb and Elaine, aka Mill Bay Plantaholics, are selling plants to raise money, half of which will go to a Malowi girl for her secondary school education and half will go the Duncan Shelter for Battered women.
- March 29th 2 - 4 Lemon & Lavender tea hosted by the Hospital Auxiliary at Mill Bay Community Hall. Proceeds go to Cairnsmore or Cowichan Hospital.
- Stephanie - the Cowichan Valley Garden Club is having a plant show April 11th 10 - 1 at St John's Anglican church on Jubilee Street, Duncan. \$2 admission, garden treasures also available.
- Joy Story - Grow Food, 3 workshops offered at the Hub in Cowichan Station starting Thursday March 26 6:30 - 8:30.

Brag Table – Barb Kohlman

- One of the prettiest Camellias is "Bob Hope", this one from Allie's garden.
- Hummingbirds love red currant bushes.
- Ferns can form a good hedge and be a replacement for boxwood.

Minutes continued on page 8

Q & A – Joy Story

- Harvest stinging nettles now, cutting them about half way up the stem. Nutrient rich, make a nettle tea for watering seedlings. Sauté onion, throw in nettles, add water for a delicious soup.
- Weevils on rhododendrons – combat with nematode sponges which will kill the larva. Adult weevils are black in colour, spray under the leaves with water to knock them off the plant. Because it is sticky, Tanglefoot grabs everything, beneficial and bad insects.

Coffee Break

Raffle – Carmel Haley & Bobbie Burns

Speaker – Richard Fraser, Thimble Farm – Hardy Orchids

- Orchid seeds are naked seeds, they need fungus to germinate as they don't have their own food source.
- Lady slipper is a hardy orchid.
- It takes 8 years before a hardy orchid is ready for sale.
- It takes 3 years for tropical orchids to be ready for sale.
- Most orchids come from climates cooler than our own, with frosty frozen winters.
- Most people over water orchids
- Hardy orchids are good for dry shade gardens at the edge of the forest.

Meeting adjourned 9pm.

MBGC

BUY - SELL - TRADE



FREE RIVER ROCK

Approximately three cubic yards of river rock for the taking.

Sizes range from 1" to 7" in diameter, but most are 1" - 2".

If interested email Sandra Simpson

WANTED BULRUSHES

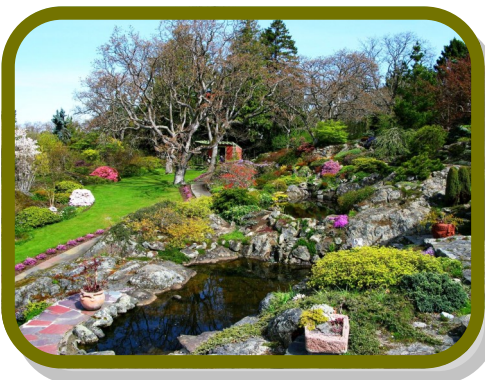
Kevin Kersten is looking for bulrushes. Lots of it, to act as a filter for his swim pond.

He built a 20X40 swim pond 3 years ago and last year took out the liner and dug deeper and added a 20X40 plant pond.

He would like to add a 4X50 filter that is 8 inches deep, filled with bulrushes .

If you have bulrushes on your property, that you are willing to let him take, please contact Kevin

UPCOMING EVENTS



Plant a Holics Sale is back at AbKhazi Garden

Attention all you plant geeks!! As there will be no U.Vic. sale this year, this is the one to attend to help support the Friends of the Abkhazi Garden Society

Abkhazi Garden Saturday May 2nd, 10-12.

1964 Fairfield Rd .

Lots of parking nearby at Margaret Jenkins School

Pacific Coast Irises, woodlanders, ferns, grasses, succulents, geraniums, fuchsias

Bring your garden tools to get sharpened by "Sharp & Sharper" while you shop and enjoy the garden.

HAT Native Plant — Sunday May 3 — 10am to 4pm — Garden Tour 2015

Visit 5 private and 4 public gardens in your neighbourhood, ask gardeners questions and get tips on creating your own backyard oasis.

**FREE! Drop-in event,
 no need to RSVP**
 Brought to you by
 Habitat Acquisition Trust

Free GUIDE



For first 200 visitors

**Enter for a gift basket
 that includes:**
 Bird box, poster, easy-to-grow native
 plants, 1 hour consultation with garden
 GURU Pat Johnston, and more!

Public Garden Locations

Oak Bay Native Plant Garden
 (Margate Ave and Beach Dr.)

Fort Rodd Hill
 (603 Fort Rodd Hill Rd.)

Government House
 (1401 Rockland Ave.)

Uplands Park
 (2900 Block of Beach Dr.)

Private Garden Locations

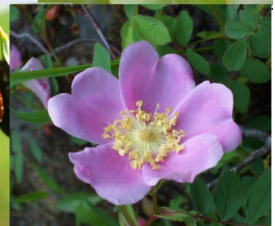
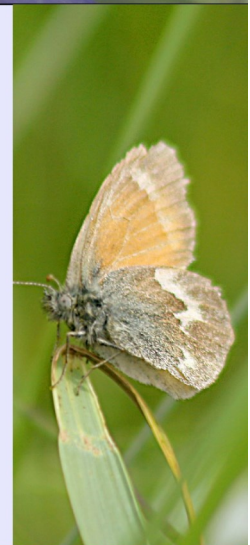
1201 Judge Pl
 (Cedar Hill)

1119 Chapman St
 (Cook St. Village)

1709 Carnegie St
 (Gordan Head)

2203 Kinross Ave
 (Uplands)

961 Pembroke St
 (Victoria City)



Visit hat.bc.ca for a detailed Guide - call 250-995-2428 or email hatmail@hat.bc.ca for info





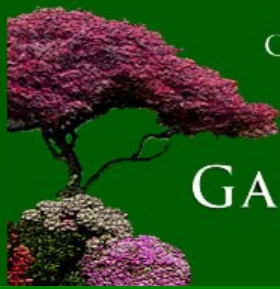
North Island Rhododendron Society

Rhododendron Sale April 26th , 10 am to 1 pm

The sale is held in the K'omox Band Hall, 3320 Comox (Dyke) Road, from 10 AM to 1 PM and includes not only a wide variety of species not commonly found in box stores or even nurseries as well as giving buyers the opportunity to talk with growers themselves. A new feature this year is an information table where club experts are available to answer questions on rhodo culture, care, propagation, etc. Starting in the late morning the club will also stage mini workshops on various aspects of rhodo culture.

NIRS Mothers Day Garden Tour May 10th

The NIRS Mother's Day Garden Tour May 10 now in its 20th year will centre around gardens in the immediate Comox/Courtenay area and will feature seven highly individual gardens—from small intricately planned gardens to large acreages. Tickets cost \$10 for all of the gardens and this will include a ticket for a prize rhododendron in the draw at the end of the day. (There will be tickets at some of the gardens for purchase on May 11). For information on where to purchase tickets beforehand and any other information on the tour and sale, call 250-339-0909 or 250-941-5559.



COWICHAN
VALLEY

GARDEN
FAIR

Saturday May 2, 2015

from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

at Mellor Hall, Cowichan Exhibition Park, Duncan, BC

FREE ADMISSION

The 2015 Cowichan Valley Garden Fair will be held on **Saturday May 2, 2015 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.



**WELCOME TO OUR 33rd ANNUAL
MOTHER'S DAY MUSICAL GARDEN TOUR
(May 9 & 10 / 10am – 4pm)**

There is no other life once gardening possesses your soul. This Mother's Day weekend connect with the glory of Spring. Your two-day pass grants you exclusive passage to ten hand-picked, enchanting private gardens in Victoria. Delight in the inspiration and joy of gardening while enjoying live music from VCM students and faculty. Have all your gardening questions answered by our on site Master Gardeners.

Also, don't miss our fantastic plant sale, silent auction and for the weekend's grand finale simply show your Garden Tour ticket (or use the promo code found inside when purchasing online) and receive \$10 off a ticket to [Daniel Lapp's Joy of Jazz concert](#) on Sunday, May 10th – 3:00pm in the Alix Gooden Performance Hall. All proceeds go to support the VCM!

Go to vcm.bc.ca/Victoria-garden-tour for information on tickets

**21st Annual Cowichan Valley Garden Tour , Sunday June 7,
2015**

6 Cowichan Valley Private Gardens will be open to view

Call Cowichan Family Life [250 748 8281](tel:2507488281) for ticket outlets 10 am – 4:30

Tickets are \$20 with a Garden Tea by donation

The Cowichan Valley Garden Tour is a self guided tour of 6 unique and diverse private gardens. A tea, by donation, is held in one of the gardens. "A Chat in the Garden with Helen Chesnut", Times Colonist columnist, will be hosted in one garden plus master gardeners are available in all of the gardens to answer your gardening questions. The tour is a charity fundraiser to support the programs that promote the health and well being of children and families in the Cowichan Valley. Tickets cost \$20. For ticket outlets please call [250 748 8281](tel:2507488281), visit cowichanfamilylife.org or drop by the Cowichan Family Life Thrift Store.



FORAGER FOUNDATION

www.foragerfoundation.org/fundraisers

NATIVE SEED FUNDRAISER

The seed packets all contain native plants that were traditionally used for food or medicine by local First Nations communities. Each packet is \$5 +shipping or \$4 each +free shipping when you buy 5 or more packets. All shipping is free and each order ships within a couple days of receiving the order.

Place your order today!

EDIBLE BERRIES

MEDICINAL HERBS

TREES AND SHRUBS

37 PLANTS TO CHOOSE FROM

INCORPORATE NATIVE EDIBLE AND MEDICINAL PLANTS INTO YOUR GARDEN AND SUPPORT A LOCAL NONPROFIT AT THE SAME TIME!

Forager Foundation works to promote Traditional Knowledge through projects that incorporate native plants. We are working on some exciting Cultural Gardens and your support means we are able to create these wonderful community resources.

Forager Foundation is a Vancouver-based non-profit that focuses on promoting Traditional Knowledge through education and projects involving native plants. We have a program we call our Cultural Gardens where we create gardens that are used as teaching tools in the community for people to learn about native plants that are culturally important for food and medicine. As we approach the warmer months we are putting on a fundraiser to raise money for some of our gardens and other projects. We are selling packets of native seeds that are traditionally used for food or medicine.

Buy seeds via the web site: www.foragerfoundation.org/fundraisers

Master Gardener

Part-time Non-credit Certificate Program

Are you an experienced home gardener interested in advancing your skills and volunteering in your community?

Consider the VIU/VIMGA Master Gardener Basic Training Program, offered at VIU for 12 Saturdays starting: **September 12 - December 5, 2015.**

The course is based on the original, authentic Master Gardener program from Washington State University, 30 years strong.

View the full Program Guide at the VIU website, www2.viu.ca/pdt/certificates/mastergardener.asp

"BC's Master Gardeners: Educating the public while continuing to educate themselves in sustainable gardening practices."

INFORMATION SESSION - RAMM 001 I15D01

When: Wednesday, May 20; 6-8pm

Where: G.R. Paine Horticultural Centre, Nanaimo



Call 1-888-747-3519 for further information



**Professional Development
and Training**
at Vancouver Island University

Education
for your life.