



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

NOVEMBER 2015



Next Meeting

November 24, 2015

The November meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on Tuesday, November 24th at 7:00 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, plant sale table, buy raffle tickets, put exhibits on the brag table, listen to interesting guest speakers, and socialize.

November Speaker:

Gord Hutchings

Topic: "Native Bees and Climate Change"

(more detail about speaker, page 2)

November Brag Table Theme:

WHAT'S LEFT?

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.

*See page 5 for details re
Christmas Potluck Dinner on
December 8th !!*

**See page 7 for early history of the
Flower & Garden Show!**

DON'T FORGET!

**BRING YOUR MUG FOR THE
BREAK!**



November Kitchen Duties:

Mary-Ellen Deuling

1 litre of 2% milk:

Noreen Carver

Cookies/Goodies:

Gwen Redcliffe; Norm Redcliffe; Mariana Lambrecht

Kitchen Helpers:

Gill Keir; Kathy Edmunds

Set up/Clean Up:

Cori-Lee Fisher; Pauline Dueck; JoAnne Mulhern

November Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker this month is **Gordon Hutchings** of Hutchings Bee Service.



Gordon has been studying native bees for 22 years in B.C., Yukon and Saskatchewan. He has been a contract field biologist for Royal B.C. Museum, B.C. Ministry of Environment (Conservation Data Centre), the Yukon Territory Government, and Canada Wildlife Service. A busy bee himself, Gordon is a prolific speaker and advocate in his field, and can be found around and about Vancouver Island teaching and speaking about native bee species.



Library Report

Christmas is coming early to the MBGC. Six new books are on order including:

- *The Wild Wisdom Of Weeds* by *Katrina Blair*
- *Growing Food in a Hotter, Drier Land* by *Gary Nabhan*
- *Wild Edibles* by *Sergei Boutenko*
- *Rain Gardens: Managing Water sustainably in the Garden* by *Andy Clayden and Nigel Dunnett*
- *Lunar and Biodynamic Gardening* by *Matthew Jackson*
- *Deep Rooted Wisdom* by *Augustus Farmer*

Many thanks to those who recommended books so far, especially Dianne McNair who has kept me busy locating her recommendations!

Please remember to return your borrowed books each month so that others may have a chance to snuggle up with them this winter.

Your Friendly Librarian,
Janice Rose

Raffle Report

Bobbie Burns

Dear Garden Club Members --

Once again we had a fun and successful raffle at our October meeting. Thank you all for your enthusiasm.

We are much obliged to our member, **Barb Juurlink**, for her donation of a beautifully scented rose flower arrangement.

And to two anonymous donors: one for a practical and attractive carry bag made from recycled fabric and another for a decorative garden pot housing a zonal Geranium.

A special thanks to club members who came forward with welcome offers for future raffle donations.

We gratefully acknowledge the following businesses for their continued support of the Mill Bay Garden Club:



IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Membership is very reasonably priced at \$10 per year. Your dues go toward running the club, paying for speakers and the donation to local charities at the end of the year. Another bonus of membership is receiving the newsletter and email notifications of upcoming events. **Cash only, please.**

REMEMBER: membership dues MUST be paid by the January monthly meeting to continue receiving Newsletter and Event notifications by email....

As well, you can purchase a permanent MBGC name tag (green background, white letters) from our treasurer, Marie Cooke, at a one-time price of \$10 (again cash only, please). These name tags can be ordered at anytime during the club year.

Example:



Social Media Report

Pauline Dueck

If you use Facebook, don't forget to check us out and "LIKE" us at www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub



Cards by Mary Gale

If you know of someone in the club who is sick, or in hospital please let Mary Gale know and she will send a card on behalf of the Mill Bay Garden Club.

Gardening Tips

for December 2015

by

Barb Kohlman, Master Gardener



Perhaps a few notes on soils – the most important aspect of your gardens.....

- ⇒ Heavy rains will compact your soil – mulch with leaves/grass clippings/compost and consider a permanent groundcover mulch for the future:
 - ◇ Wild strawberry or thyme or cotoneaster – low growing or sedums
 - ◇ or for shade - lady's mantle or wild ginger or sweet woodruff (if it can be contained) or lungwort or native piggy-back plant (*Tolmiea menziesii*)
 - ◇ and light shade – yarrow or kinnikinnick or astilbe or epimedium
- ⇒ 2" of compost added to your beds after the ground cools and then mulched with about 4-6" of leaves (run over with your lawn mower, if possible, to break them down) is the perfect way to set your beds for good growth next spring.
- ⇒ Don't walk on the wet soil - human compaction affects the top 12" of soil which is your best growing depth for perennials, veggies and feeder tree roots.

Cheers barb k



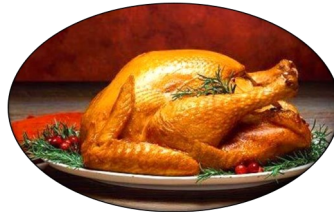


TUESDAY DECEMBER 8th, 2015

MBGC CHRISTMAS POTLUCK !

This year the Christmas potluck dinner is on December 8th at the Mill Bay Community League Hall. Doors open at 5:30 to allow time to set up your table and potluck item. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm. Bring your family, they are all welcome!

Volunteer needed to cook Christmas Turkey !!



(Please let Pip know if you are interested)

Details:

- * Turkey, Ham (with mustard mousse!), Punch, Coffee, Tea provided courtesy of MBGC. Other dishes are potluck: appys, salads, veggies, desserts, etc, provided by club members.
- * Bring your own plates, cups, cutlery, napkins....
- * Please bring a non-perishable item for the food bank - donation boxes will be provided near the Hall entrance.

Fun Stuff:

- * **Table Centrepiece** -- theme is **"Yule"** - create an arrangement for your table (*candles cannot be lit*). Win one of 3 prizes!
- * **Raffle Prize** -- receive a FREE raffle ticket upon arrival. Prize number to be drawn sometime during the evening.
- * **Gift Exchange** -- place an anonymous garden-related gift under the tree, get your number and be eligible to receive a gift . \$10 limit on gift value.
- * **Word Jumble by Ajay** -- always fun!
- * **Carol Sing-a-long** -- we have some lovely voices in our Club to encourage the rest of us to join in. Song sheets will be available. And there is a piano in the Hall if anyone would like to play-a-long, or give a solo performance!

Mill Bay Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 27, 2015

President – Pip Woodcock

- 7 p.m. Call to order.
- Christmas party December 8th
 - 2 turkeys – Dianne McNair and Dianne Regan volunteered to roast.
 - 1 ham – Mary Heath volunteered to bake.
 - MBGC to supply.
 - Information will be included in next newsletter.
- Long time member Roger Burgess has passed away. Celebration of his life will be held at his home on Goulet Road Sunday Nov 1, 12-4.
(Minute of silence observed.)

Vice President – Mary Vandenberg

- Don Genova will be speaking to us about local food artisans this evening.
- November's speaker from the University of Victoria will be speaking on native bees and climate change.

Treasurer – Marie Cooke

- \$1456.59 balance.
- Permanent membership tags are available for purchase - \$10.

Newsletter – Cori-Lee Fisher - regrets

- Round of applause for newsletter.

Membership – Arlene Dench

- 81 renewals.
- 4 new members in September.
- Let us know if your contact information has changed.

Community Flower & Garden Show – Bernie Juurlink

- Volunteers required beginning in January.
- Focus will be gathering items for silent auction from the membership instead of attempting to enlarge the auction and asking for items from the business community.

Plant Sales – Monika Morgan

- If you are dividing plants, please donate to the plant sale.

Historian – Mary Gale

- Condolences card will be sent to Roger Burgess family.

Facebook – Pauline Dueck

- Visit MBGC facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub/>

Members Forum

- Pat Spezowka – Elder College
November 30 1:30-4 Live table centerpiece.
December 7 1:30-4 Live wreath.
- Norman Redcliffe – American Dahlia Society propagation experiment storing Dahlia tubers in Saran wrap to retain moisture to be kept at 10° Celsius (45°F). 95% success rate. Contact Norman if you would like to participate.

Brag Table – Barb Kohlman

- Theme – Fall Fiesta
- Dustin brought in a number of varieties of mushrooms including white chanterelles, winter chanterelles, black elfin saddles, shaggy manes, lobster mushrooms and winter oysters.

Q & A – Martin Parry

- Clean up and prune out dead damaged and diseased branches on fruit trees.
- Check for pests regularly. Spraying trees with dormant oil suffocates pests before they can migrate up the tree to the fruit. Although root growth occurs in Spring & Fall, watering in summer is required because of transpiration.

Raffle – Bobbi Burns

- Raffle items include: Vietnamese pot, Elf bag made in Qualicum and a Rusticana gift certificate.
- Tickets are 3 for \$1.

Speaker – Don Genova

- Don is a Food Journalist, a Broadcaster (CBC), holds a degree in Environmental Science from University of Waterloo, and completed a Gastronomy program in Italy in 2007. Don moved to Vancouver Island in 2003 and has offered cooking classes at Killrenny Farm in Cowichan Bay.
- Meeting adjourned 9:00pm.

See below an interesting historical article printed in Issue 77 (April 2015) of the *Cowichan Valley Voice*. Brought to our attention by lifetime club member, Elaine Bliss. Thank you, Elaine!

EYE ON *Shawnigan*



The earliest notation regarding a Flower Show at Shawnigan Lake is made in conjunction with the 1915 Annual Regatta. Although the phrase 1st Annual was used, it is hard to determine how many successive shows followed. We do know for certain that, in 1926, the Shawnigan Farmer's Institute initiated another annual flower show as part of their "Spring Show". The Spring Show was a popular event held each April from 1926-1932 (with the exception of 1931, due to the village fire) at the Shawnigan Lake Athletic Association hall. A committee of five local men organized the event in this era.

In 1946, the Shawnigan Flower Show blossomed again, this time with women at the helm. The new event, organized by the Shawnigan Lake Women's Institute became a community event that included handicrafts, a home bake sale and entertainment. Mrs. W.J. Cotsford, founder and convener of the first show felt that, "the growing and

arranging of flowers was something creative which could be done by anyone...". In 1954, the event became co-sponsored between the Women's Institute and the Shawnigan Lake Parent Teacher Association. After 1967, a committee from the community was struck to organize the show in 1968 and beyond.



The Flower Show was a big event for Shawnigan Lake that required many volunteers from the community. Some people were involved with the show for decades. Over the years, horticultural heavyweights such as Jack and Hilda Beastall and Helen Chestnut have praised the show in their newspaper columns. In 1986, Helen declared that, "the Shawnigan Flower Show was a highlight of the horticultural world on southern Vancouver Island". An impressive line-up of people came to open the Shawnigan Flower Show over the years.

The Flower Show moved to the Cobble Hill Hall in 2001, after 55 years in Shawnigan Lake, due to the rising rental costs at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Many of the beautiful trophies from past flower shows are in the collection at the Shawnigan Lake Museum. The Mill Bay Garden Club now organizes this popular event under the name, Community Flower and Garden Show.

Upcoming Seminars at Dinter's



DINTER NURSERY

5 km. south of Duncan BC on Highway #1

Phone: (250) 748-2023

email: info@dinternursery.ca

Seminars for Gardeners

Time	Topic	Description	Instructor
Saturday December 12 10 a.m. to noon Cost \$25.	Wreath Making Workshop REGISTRATION RE- QUIRED	Build a custom wreath using cedar bough base. See home page for details.	Tamu of Dinter's
Sunday December 13 1-2 p.m. Cost \$30	Terrarium Workshop REGISTRATION REQUIRED	Learn to build and maintain a miniature garden. See home page for details.	Tamu of Dinter's

