



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2016

Next Meeting

March 22, 2016

The March meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on Tuesday, March 22nd at 7:00 pm at the Mill Bay Community League Hall, 1001 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road. Doors open at 6:30pm.

Participate in library, plant sales, raffle, brag table, question & answer period, members forum, etc. Socialize over coffee and goodies, and enjoy and learn from our monthly guest speaker!

March Speaker:

Bill McMillan

"Companions for the Rhodo Garden"

(Page 2 for more detail)

March Brag Table Theme

"Marvelous March!"

With plant and flower identification and commentary provided by Barb Kohlman (club member & Master Gardener), the Brag Table is a great part of our monthly meetings. A way to share what's going on in your garden and ... a chance to win the prize awarded randomly to one of the participants!

March Kitchen Duties:

Dianne Regan

1 litre of 2% milk:
Stephanie Walter

Cookies/Goodies:
Lorraine Little; Janette Lorimer; Pat Spezowka

Kitchen Helpers:
Deb Justin

Set up/Clean Up:
Barb Kohlman; Stephanie Walter; Kathy Code



REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR MUG FOR THE BREAK!



- * Gardening Tips for March, p.4
- * New Syrian Refugee Family - request for donations, p. 7
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REMINDER !!

MILL BAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE HALL

1035 Shawnigan Lake/Mill Bay Road

GARDEN SPRING CLEANUP

This Saturday !! March 19th 10 - Noon

CALLING FOR 8-10 VOUNTEERS !

Bring your gardening tools !



Vice-President's Report

Bill McMillan is a Geologist by training who decided to focus on rhododendrons when he retired.

He has worked at HCP in the Rhodo and Hosta Garden since 1999, becoming Curator shortly thereafter and continuing in this role ever since.



Bill was in charge of the Victoria Rhododendron Society Show and Sale for 5 years and Registrar of the American Rhododendron Society convention on Victoria in 2006. He is a past President of the Victoria Rhododendron Society and is currently on the Board.

He has given presentations on basic rhododendron culture to many garden clubs, Master Gardener's classes and the HCP College students. Bill describes himself as an enthusiast, rather than an expert!

*Thank you,
Mary Vandenberg*



69th Community Flower & Garden Show 2016 Report

Planning for the 2016 Community Flower & Garden Show is now well under way.



This Show is so popular with the Judges that six Judges will come on **Friday evening, May 27**, to judge the entries for vegetable, flowers and flower arrangements. So **please** -- plan on entering our show since we cannot disappoint so many judges.

Our Sub-Committee Chairs are in place:

Judging- Dianne Regan **Show Coordinator-** Angie Stanta
Outdoor Vendors- Ian Kennedy **Promotions & Publicity-**
Pat Spezowka **Signs & Programs-** Gail Bemrose
Silent Auction- Ed and Sharon Arnold **Workshops-** Mary Vandenberg
Miscellaneous- Megan O'Hara **Treasurer-** Janice Rose.

A number of people have already volunteered to assist a few of the Sub-Committee Chairs but we need more volunteers, so please do not hesitate to approach any of the Sub-Committee Chairs if you are interested in helping.

*Bernie Juurlink
Flower & Garden Show Chair*



69th Community Flower & Garden Show 2016 SILENT AUCTION REPORT

This year we will be scaling down the number of items for auction and will be using mainly items donated by **You The Members!**

This will give our local businesses a well-needed rest from being inundated with requests for donations. A few companies will be approached such as Lee Valley, Dinters, and Buckerfields. And, as always, the outside vendors are expected to donate an item to the auction as well.

Please think about what you can contribute. The items don't have to be garden related and could include vouchers for food items such as pies, loaves of bread, tea or lunch parties..... things that you could provide yourself.

Please contact *Ed or Sharon Arnold, Silent Auction Chairs*, if you have a donation, or need more information.

Raffle Table Report

Acknowledgements from your February Raffle Team
(*Bobbie Burns; Mary-Ellen Deuling, Cliff Stainsby, and Carmel Haley*):

Many thank you's to our local businesses for their donations to our raffle table:



And a very special thanks to club member, Pat Spezowka, for her donation of informative garden magazines this month.

*** Please call Bobbie or Carmel
or see us at the meeting re questions or donations ***

Plant Sales Table

We always appreciate, and need, plant donations for our table.....

This month we will have empty pots available so if you have some transplants you'd like to donate, but lacking pots to put them in, we can accommodate you!



*Respectfully,
Monika Morgan:)*

Social Media

If you use Facebook, don't forget to check us out and "LIKE" us at:

www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub

Pauline Dueck

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 March/April 2016

by

Barb Kohlman, Master Gardener



Remove leaves that were protecting beds over the winter---add them to your compost. Use them to mix with grass clippings once you start to mow.

Prune woody plants now---while they are still dormant. Blooming before June 1st prune now--- blooming after June 1st, prune after they bloom.

Prune Roses now --- Forsythia is in bloom.

Can lift and divide your snowdrops now as the blooms die, but before the leaves do. Replant, spacing out a bit and at least top dress with good compost.

Divide and relocate fall blooming perennials as they emerge from the soil.

Leave your spring/early summer blooming ones till early fall (September)

Feed rhubarb and berry plants. I like a liquid organic fertilizer, or a granular balanced mix. (Borden's pre-mixed organic blend from Borden's Mercantile, Victoria)

Throw a handful of Epsom salts on the root area of your rhodos and roses and other evergreen shrubs. This offers them some magnesium to help green up the leaves.

Cheers barb k

Mill Bay Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 23, 2016

President – Pip Woodcock

- 7 p.m. Call to order.
- Motion to accept minutes for January 2016 meeting.
 - Moved by Megan O'Hare
 - Seconded by Dianne Regan
 - Passed
- Shirley Walker, Community Policing announcement regarding recent robberies in Mill Bay area.
- As Beth Lischeron is not present this evening, please give any seeds for Seedy Saturday to Heather or bring them to Seedy Saturday which is being held Saturday March 12th 10 – 3 at the Cobble Hill Community Hall.
- Bobbie is pleased to accept donations from members for the raffle table. Please let her know who has given what.
- Courtenay Garden Club member looking to rent in this area and become a member of MBGC.
- Welcome to visitors attending tonight's meeting.
- Marie has made laminated badges for life members including Mary Gale, Ruby Armor, Gail McIntyre, Dot Garbut, Barb Kohlman, Bill Herring, Mary Herring, Ajay Oppelaar.

Vice President – Mary Vandenberg

- January's speaker, Tim Kulchyski, is willing to do a walk in the woods with interested members after Easter.

Treasurer – Marie Cooke

- \$1709.48 balance.
- Name tags available for \$10.
- Annual membership runs from September to August.

Secretary – Janet Abbott

- Is resigning after three years. Please talk to her if you are interested in this position.

Newsletter – Cori-Lee Fisher

- Members who haven't paid their membership dues have been removed from the list to receive the newsletter via email. When dues are paid, members will start receiving the newsletter again.

Membership – Arlene Dench

- 2 renewals from past members.

Bernie Juurlink – CFGS

- CFGS committee members as mentioned at last meeting. Ed & Sharon Arnold have not confirmed with Bernie that they will handle the silent auction.
- Need a workshop coordinator.
- Need an assistant for Gail Bemrose who is taking care of signage etc.
- Require an assistant to the 6 volunteer judges.
- Rough proof for CFGS brochure being passed around for proofing. Dot has designed the brochure and Gail had it printed.
- Theme is "Garden for Mind, Body & Soul".

Library – Janice Rose

- One month notice before embarrassing phone calls begin asking you to return your books.
- New pruning and perennial books available, recommended by Dinter Nursery.
- 2 raised boxes are up and running for the Syrian family. Thank you for your donations. Looking for donation or loan of a lawn mower.

Plant Sales – Monika Morgan

- Herbs and flowers available.
- Bay leaves donated by Dot.

Historian – Mary Gale

- Card to Nick Jenkins.
- Card to Don McDowell.
- Elaine Scott donated cards to MBGC for Mary to use.

Facebook – Pauline Dueck

- Visit MBGC facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub/>
- "friend" our page, click "like".

(Cont'd next page)

Mill Bay Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 23, 2016 (cont'd)

Brag Table – Barb Kohlman

- Theme – The Sap is Rising

Q & A – Bill Herring

- Plant early so roots grow deep and require less water.

Coffee Break

Raffle – Cliff Stainsby

- Raffle tickets 3 for \$1.
- \$25 gift certificate from Tools 2 Go.
- Books from Pat Spezowka
- Hoe from Shar-Kare
- Camellia bouquet
- Salt Spring Soap Works
- Enrico wine
- 2 Daphne plants from Dinter Nursery

Speaker – Bernie Dinter, Dinter Nursery, Xeriscaping

- 2015 – average year for rain, distribution of rain was different.
 - Organic matter – compost, rotted manure, work in deeply.
 - Deep watering, not frequent watering.
- Meeting adjourned 9:00pm.



*Cliff & Mary-
Ellen at Seedy
Saturday in
Cobble Hill*

DON'T FORGET!!

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE
MAY 28, 2016 9am - 2pm
AT THE COMMUNITY FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

Your plant sale committee (Barb Kohlman, Mary Gale, Margo Johnston, Lorraine Little, Heather Jenkins, Pat Stevens, Ruby Armour, Sharon Martin and Elaine Scott) is all organized for our annual plant sale but we need loads of plants to make it a success. The plant sale will take place during the Community Flower and Garden Show at the Cobble Hill Farmer's Institute Hall on Saturday May 28, 2016 from 9 am to 2 pm. As you know, the money that the Club makes from the plant sale helps to support our contributions to projects ongoing in our Community. Our Club is very community minded and the sale is important to us.

This year we are hoping that we get loads of plants for the sale. So please pot up plants as you clean up your garden so that we can put on a great sale.

We kindly ask you to refrain from donating invasive plants. Sometimes you may not realize that your plants are invasive. The Committee will help you out there and will remove any plants from the sale that it considers to be invasive.

If you have any questions please contact Elaine Scott.

Thank you one and all.



LOCAL GARDENS OPEN TO CLUB MEMBERS

It's that time of year again to consider opening your garden for viewing by your fellow garden club members.

I know most of us really enjoy seeing other gardens for ideas and sheer enjoyment. It's fun to talk to everyone as they mosey thru the garden! It doesn't matter if your garden is a work in progress, most of ours are!

Are you interested? Please contact me, Mary Vandenberg, Vice-President. I would love to hear from you.



New Syrian Refugee Family

Information provided by Janice Rose

Community members living in Satellite Park, just off Telegraph Road, have been repairing/renovating a house in their community that has been empty for some time. They are supporting a Syrian refugee family of seven, arriving very soon to Cobble Hill.

The following items are needed for this family's new home:

- * 3 dressers
- * mattress covers (2 queen; 4 twin)
- * canisters for flour, sugar, etc
- * pots, pans, bowls, dishes, glasses
- * 3 shower curtains, 2 bath mats
- * 2 TV's, floor lamps, table lamps
- * 5 night tables
- * 12 new pillows, single bed bedding
- * set of cutting knives
- * kitchen linens, oven mitts
- * a desk, casual chairs
- * some lawn furniture

And anything else that will make this house more comforting.....

If you can help us provide for this family please contact: Terry or Beth Black at (778) 356-0470 or terry-beth@shaw.ca. Thank you.



HELP WANTED !!

Vital Garden Club with active, interesting members looking for keen colleagues to lead during the next year.

Positions Open:

- ◆ Vice-President (for one year, moving on to President)
- ◆ Secretary
- ◆ Membership
- ◆ Raffle (Join the team of Bobbie Burns and Janet Abbott)
- ◆ Website Administrator

Interested candidates please contact Mary Vandenberg, Nominating Committee Chair

ALSO WANTED !!

Garden Tour Coordinator 21st Annual COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN TOUR Sunday, June 5, 2016

Maureen Gallinger, Executive Director, Cowichan Family Life is in search of:

"a volunteer to take on the role of Garden Tour Coordinator. Past Coordinator, Marian Burnett, will continue to handle PR and press-related duties, and most of the other volunteer positions are already filled. BUT we are looking for that talented person who can pull it all together and orchestrate a successful fundraiser for this year's garden tour"

If you are interested, or would like more information about this volunteer position, Maureen can be contacted at maureen@cowichanfamilylife.org or (250) 748-8281.

Website: <http://www.cowichanfamilylife.org/events/gardentour.htm>

WANTED to RENT

Potential new member to our garden club: lady from Courtenay wanting to move to Mill Bay/Cobble Hill area. Looking for 1 bedroom suite or cabin, ideally with bit of yard and garden space, approx. \$750/month. Contact Pip Woodcock for more detail.



Upcoming Events

Duncan Seedy Sunday

Sunday March 20, 2016 10am to 2pm

Cowichan Tribes Si'em Lelum Gymnasium 5774 River Road, Duncan, BC

<http://cowichangreencommunity.org/workshop-events/duncan-seedy-sunday/>

Port Alberni Seedy Saturday

Saturday April 2, 2016 10am to 3pm

Arrowvale Campground, 5955 Hector Rd. Port Alberni, BC

www.arrowvale.ca

Cowichan Valley Garden Club -- Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, April 9, 2016 10 to 1

St. Johns Anglican Church Hall, 486 Jubilee Street, Duncan, BC

Bradner Flower Show

April 8, 9, 10, 2016 Open daily at 10am

Bradner Hall, 5305 Bradner Road, Abbotsford, BC

www.bradnerhall.ca or www.facebook.com/bradnerhall

Festival Active Pass 2016 - Galiano Island

April 22-24, 2016

Festival Central at Galiano Lions Hall, 992 Burrill Road

This is the second annual Active Pass Nature and Arts Festival, hosted by Galiano this year, to celebrate the natural beauty and biodiversity of the Gulf Islands as well as the vibrant artistic culture of island residents. This year's festival includes guided tours of 3 distinct Galiano gardens on different parts of the island. More information, and registration: <http://festivalactivepass.com/>

The 2016 Cowichan Valley Garden Fair

April 30, 2016 10 am - 2 pm

Cowichan Exhibition Main Hall, Duncan

The Fair offers a great rhodo truss show, rhodo plants galore & many companion plants including a wide selection of Japanese Maples.

website: www.CowichanValleyGardenFair.com



Upcoming Events, cont'd

MILL BAY PLANTAHOLICS PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016 9am to 2pm

Location: 2836 Oceanside Lane, Mill Bay (east off Trans Canada Highway at Kilmalu, south on Church Way, east on Welch Road and south on Oceanside Lane).

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 fourth year of secondary school education) and **Somenos Transition House** - a program of the Cowichan Women Against Violence Society.



A great selection of healthy plants will be available for purchase. Members of the Victoria Master Gardener Association will be on hand to answer your gardening questions

Volunteer Gardeners' Annual Plant Sale

Cairnsmore Place

250 Cairnsmore Street, Duncan

Saturday, May 7 from 10:00 to 1:00



The Volunteer Gardeners at Cairnsmore Place are holding their annual plant sale. There will be hundreds of plants ready for planting. You will also find birdhouses, pot trivets and faerie doors made by members of the group.

The group is made up of 16 volunteers who work half a day a week from Spring to Fall. There is no Island Health budget for this work, so money is raised through donations and the plant sale.

These funds pay for fertilizer, mulching, new plants and new projects. This work can only be done with the support of the Cowichan Valley's gardening community. Thank you.

