



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

SEPTEMBER 2016

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, September 27th**

Time: **7pm** (Doors open 6:30pm)

Place: **Mill Bay Community League Hall** (1001 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd)

Activities:

Business Meeting; Members Forum, Gardening Q&A; Library; Raffle; Plant Sales; Guest Speaker; Socializing!



September Brag Table Theme:

"AUTUMN AWAKENS"

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. 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!



SEPTEMBER SPEAKER:

Rachelle McElroy

"Be Plantwise: Grow Me Instead!"

See page 2 for details

Kitchen Duties:

Our most sincere "Thank You!" from all garden club members to **Dianne Regan** for her many years of care and attention to the coffee break portion of our monthly meetings.

And "Welcome!" to **Mary-Ellen Deuling** who will be taking over from Dianne in this 2016/2017 year.

Note: A sign-up sheet will be passed around during the meeting on September 27th asking for volunteers to fulfill such tasks as: **Kitchen Helpers; 2% Milk; Cookies/Goodies,** and **Setup/Cleanup** at each monthly meeting.



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



President's Report

Pip Woodcock

Where did the summer go?! It has been an interesting one especially as everything seemed to flower and fruit much earlier than usual. Again watering has been a challenge with the lack of moisture but by using a washing-up bowl and then emptying the contents (plus the odd spoon or two) on the pots around the side door everything seems to have survived. By remembering to harvest plums and walnuts when the first thought of that enters my head we have missed the ravages of the racoons and squirrels – though when we harvest we do leave a few for them – usually the ones at the top of the tree!

The speakers lined up for this year look very interesting and varied with subjects ranging from invasive plants, native bees, native plants, to keyhole gardens and other interesting topics.

It will be good to get together again on Tuesday, 27th September at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start. Watch out as you enter the hall for a new spot to buy your membership which is still the best deal for a good year's education and fun!

Pip Woodcock



Vice-President's Report

Mary Vandenberg

This month's speaker is **Rachelle McElroy**, Executive Director with the Coastal Invasive Species Committee (Coastal ISC).



She will be talking about alternatives to common invasive plants of concern in your garden, problems with invasive species, why you should care and what you can do about it.

Rachelle will also be talking about the European Fire Ant, not yet reported in the Cowichan Valley but found in neighbouring jurisdictions on Vancouver Island, in the Capital Region and the Comox Valley.

Rachelle has been working with the Coastal ISC for the past five years and has been fortunate enough to meet, explore and engage many coastal communities in reducing the negative impacts of invasive species on Vancouver Island.

Mary Vandenberg



Library

Janice Rose

A gentle, and firm (!) reminder, to please return all those books and magazines that were borrowed during the summer. Thank you!

*Your Friendly Librarian,
Janice Rose*

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.

Social Media

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

www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub

Pauline Dueck

Raffle

Bobbie Burns and Janet Abbott

Janet and I are looking forward to seeing you in September for the new season.

Every year we have an interesting variety of prizes, some found, some donated by local business, but most meaningful are the gifts our club members donate. All the prize money helps pay club expenses, any profit is donated to worthy causes to benefit our community.

This year we would like to showcase products YOU

create: they might be the fruits from your garden labour, crafts you engage in, art work, inventions, maybe the gift of time to share your knowledge, for example, a garden related consultation. These are just some of the ideas we can think of, certainly there are many more.

Here are a few reasons we would like our club members to participate more actively in our raffle this year:

- get to know each other better, increase awareness of our individual interests and talents
- have more wide-ranging prizes that appeal to the greater population of our club
- more entertaining
- generally enrich the raffle experience for all

We truly value all the thoughtful donations we have received from you in the past. Thanks, and see you soon!

Bobbie and Janet

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Please note: for the months of September and October, the membership renewal table will be set up at the front of the hall. This table will be immediately to your right after coming through the main doors. We are hoping this will alleviate the "crush" which often occurs near the entrance as many people renew their memberships for the year during these two months (which is great and please do....get it done early and then forget about it 'til next year!).

For both new memberships and renewals, the process involves two steps:

1. pay \$10 (cash only, please) to Treasurer, Marie Cooke, and Marie will provide you with a stamped membership card
2. move on to Membership lead, JoAnn Mulhern, so she can record the payment of your renewal or new membership in our database. If a new member, JoAnn will record all your contact information (name, email address, street address, phone number); if a returning member, JoAnn needs to be informed of any changes to your contact info

Your membership 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.

One more thing: *Membership name tags can be purchased at a very reasonable cost at any time throughout the year. Wearing a name tag at our club meetings and other events is a helpful way to "put names to faces". Marie Cooke (Treasurer) will be happy to show you options and prices.*

Syrian Family Update

We thought you might like to see "how the garden grew" for the first Syrian family to Duncan that members of the Mill Bay Garden Club helped to sponsor:

Before



Nick Jenkins & Jim Rose working hard building, prepping raised beds.

After



And a most satisfying end result a few months later!

Mill Bay Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday May 24, 2016

President – Pip Woodcock

- 7 p.m. Call to order.
- Motion to accept April 26, 2016 meeting minutes.
 - * Moved by Dianne
 - * Seconded by Michelle
 - * Passed
- Give your silent auction items to Sharon & Ed Arnold.
- AGM
 - * 6pm Tuesday June 28th
 - * Location - Bobbi Burns house.
 - * Bring more than you would eat, be generous so there will be enough for those at the end of the buffet line.
 - * BYO beverage of choice and a chair.
 - * Create and wear a garden themed hat. There will be prizes to be won.
 - * More information will be included in the newsletter.
 - * Motion – That MBGC provide AGM with a protein item. Moved by Ajay, Seconded by Sharon. Carried.
- Regrets from Mary who is ill. Cards sent to Heather, Gale and Rosemary.
- It is new member Richard Milner's 87th birthday. His garden will be open Saturday May 28th 2 – 5.

Vice President – Mary Vandenberg

- Tonight's speaker is Dan Jason. He will talk to us about pulses. Seeds and his book are available for purchase.
- Open gardens - contact Mary to arrange a date. So far there is one scheduled for May and 2 for June.
- We have vacancies for :
 - * Raffle – one more person required.
 - * Vice President for a one year term, following year to become President. Contact Mary or Pip.

Treasurer – Marie Cooke

- \$2090 balance.
- Marie is submitting lots of entries for the CFGS because without entries there would be no show.

CFGS - Bernie Juurlink

- Should be greater attendance as The Market @ The Barn is on at the same time and we have reciprocating signs at each location.
- Lunch and refreshments will be available in the kitchen for volunteers.

- Ajay will do another demonstration for us tonight on how to get your entries ready for the show.
- Angie requires gofers during the show and for tear down and volunteers to help arrange the entries on Friday.
- Friday 9am – doors open for volunteers.
- Saturday 7am – outside vendors set up.
- Saturday 8am – doors open for volunteers.
- Sharon & Ed Arnold report we have 96 items for the silent auction.
- Ian Kennedy reports there are 6 outdoor vendors.
- Pip reminds us we can enter 2 items in one class.
- Plant Sales
 - * Elaine Scott asks us to bring plants to her house on Wednesday or Thursday.
 - * Cairnsmore volunteers have given us plants leftover from their plant sale.
 - * Sylvan United Spring Fling are giving us plants leftover from their sale.
 - * We will be donating leftover plants from CFGS to École Cobble Hill who are having a plant sale the following Saturday.
- 4 signs still available to members whose properties have high traffic visibility.

Library – Janice Rose

- Return books you borrow tonight at September meeting.

Plant Sales – Monika Morgan

- Goal is not to take any plants home. Come take those that are left.

Kitchen – Dianne Regan

- CFGS volunteers please bring your own mug to the show.

Member's Forum

- Ajay
 - * How to display entries for the CFGS.
 - * Friday morning is the best time to pick your entries. Put them in a bucket of water.
 - * Pay cashier \$.50 for each entry.
 - * No buds on Peony entries this also applies to foxgloves and delphiniums.
 - * Most important to check the number of blooms, leaves, etc. allowed for each class.
 - * Hosta leaf must be measured from the tip to where it begins, not from the stem.
 - * Containers and buckets of water supplied.

- Bill Herring has submitted entries for 20 years. Bring your entries to fill up the tables and put on a good show.
- There are lots of volunteers to help you. Bring lots of flowers and veggies to enter they don't need to be perfect.

Brag Table – Elaine Scott

- May Theme – Ready to Show!

Q & A – Bill Herring

- Garlic
 - * Cut scapes, use in cooking.
 - * Rust spots do not affect crop. Control rust by spraying copper sulphate in March and onwards every 3 weeks.
 - * Stop watering all alliums June 21st because if you water them too long they'll be large but rotten by December.
- Peach curl is caused by a spore carried in the rain. Keep rain off leaves during March, April and May by using a plastic sheet.
- Bill encourages summer pruning of fruit trees. Prune apple trees at the end of June, after the traditional June drop. The tree knows if it can't support all the apples.

Coffee Break

Raffle – Bobbi Burns

- Looking for part time volunteers.
- Raffle prizes
 - * Third Addition – lotion
 - * Sharon – lotion
 - * Scoops – lentil dal
 - * Marie Cook – garden signs
 - * Pip – garden sign
 - * Anonymous – bouquet
 - * Jackie – java bag

Speaker – Dan Jason, Salt Spring Seeds

- Pulses are the edible seeds of legumes.
- 4 Billion dollar industry in Canada. Canada is the largest exporter. Grown in the prairies, the majority are exported to China and India.
- Canadians consume less than 10% of what we grow.
- Drought tolerant, watering rarely required, pest free.
- When dried beans age they oxidize, take longer to cook and are more difficult to digest. Best to eat within one year of growing.
- 2016 is United Nations International Year of Pulses.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm.



Upcoming Events



Merridale Cidery & Distillery

1230 Merridale Road, Cobble Hill

“We are Buzzing at Merridale”

**Friday, September 23rd, 2016
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

Join us to celebrate and learn about one of the most important species in our ecosystem: bees!

This event starts at 4:00 pm in the farmhouse store with over 30 juried local artists' work featuring this amazing insect.

At 5:30, settle into the ciderhouse for an informative talk by the “Bee Guru,” Ted Leischner and hear what Merridale does to create a healthy environment for the bees on our farm. By the way...did you know Merridale brings in one million bees every spring? They are busy pollinating the apple trees all throughout spring and summer to make that wonderful cider we all love!

The art show and talk are free but registration is essential – food and drinks are extra. Click below to register online, or call 250-743-4293. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/we-are-buzzing-at-merridale-tickets-27513976043>



OCTOBER SEMINARS

Saturday, October 1st

Selecting Fruit Varieties for the Home Garden

10 am

Saturday, October 8th

Cuttings and Propagation

10 am

Saturday, October 15th

Winterizing Your Pond

10 am

Upcoming Events, cont'd

The Gardens at HCP
(Horticulture Centre of the Pacific)
505 Quayle Road, Victoria
250 479-6162



Lots going on in October!
Check out their website: <http://hcp.ca>

Some examples:

Saturday, October 1st
Fall Plant Sale
9am to 4pm

Saturday, October 15th
Composting Basics
1pm to 2:30 pm

Sunday, October 16th
Mushroom Companions to the Garden & Farm
9am to 12pm

Saturday, October 29th
Permaculture Basics
10am to 12pm

Upcoming Events, cont'd

Mixing it Up in the Urban Garden 2017

Fresh ideas & expertise for new and seasoned gardeners

Our Gardens of the Future

The New Urban Garden
Keynote Speaker: Gayla Trail
"You Grow Girl" Author & Blogger

And

Our Gardens of the Future will be
Rooted in the Past – Dr. Richard Hebda
Thirsty – Gord Baird
High Tech – Dr. Anna Colangeli
Gorgeous – Richie Steffen

Speakers sponsored by
Russell Nursery
North Saanich, BC



Plus

Local Vendors & Resources, Delicious Food,
Silent Auction & Market Place

Saturday, January 28, 2017

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney BC

COST Until Oct. 31 – \$75

From Nov. 1 – \$95

Includes lunch, breaks and free parking

Register early. We always sell out!

Information & Registration

www.mgabc.org

(Victoria Chapter)

Our Gardens of the Future

An opportunity to

Value Traditional Knowledge

Dr. Richard Hebda – Victoria

As Curator of Earth History and Botany at the Royal BC Museum, Richard is uniquely positioned to show us how First Peoples in the Victoria area interact with the eco-systems on which we all depend.

Balance Winter Rains & Summer Droughts

Gord Baird – Highlands (near Victoria)

Yes, it is possible to water your garden with last winter's rain. Yes, soon you will be able to water your garden with grey water. Gord is very well qualified to show us how.

Break: Refreshments, Vendors, Resources
VMGA Market Place, & Silent Auction Viewing

Explore the Role of Genetic Research in the Garden

Dr. Anna Colangeli – Victoria

What are GMOs, how are they created, why do we care? What is the science behind grafted vegetables? Anna, the Biology Program Chair at Camosun College, will show us how scientific developments impact our gardens.

Lunch: Vendors, Resources
VMGA Market Place & Silent Auction Viewing

Embrace the Unusual: Avant-Garde Ornamentals

Richie Steffen – Seattle Washington

As curator of special collections at the Elisabeth Miller Botanical Garden, Richie travels the world looking for new, leading edge ornamentals. Prepare to be dazzled!

Break: Refreshments, Vendors, Resources,
VMGA Market Place & Silent Auction Viewing

**Go Urban, Youthful, Sustainable, Artistic,
Low Budget & Edible**

KEYNOTE: Gayla Trail – Downtown Toronto

Gayla gardens in unexpected places with delightful results. She shares her experiences with the gardening public at <http://yougrowgirl.com>. As a young urban gardener she represents the future of gardening in Canada.

**Silent Auction Winners, Book Signing,
Vendors & Wind-up**



Victoria Master Gardener Association

Register at www.mgabc.org (Victoria Chapter)

