



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, October 25th**

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!



October Brag Table Theme:

"Orange is the New Black"

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!

OCTOBER SPEAKER:

Gord Hutchings

"Coevolution of Flowering Plants and Native Bees"



See page 2 for details

Kitchen Duties:

Mary Ellen Deuling

Kitchen Helpers: Anela Witherspoon, Grace MacDougall

2% Milk: Penny Jones

Treats: Bev Davy, Judeen Hendrickson, Megan O'Hara

Setup/Cleanup: Marion Johnston, Pat Stevens, Celine Eggleston, Kathy Code



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



Vice-President's Report

This month's speaker is **Gord Hutchings** and his presentation is entitled:

"Coevolution of Flowering Plants and Native Bees"

Gord has been studying native bees for 25 years in B.C., the 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.

Mary Vandenberg

Membership



The MBGC extends a warm welcome to the new members who attended our September meeting:

Madeleine Douaire
Dominic & Veronica Eustace
Doreen Hodgins
Rollie & Pam Jamieson
Rick & Grace MacDougall
Kate Roberts
Carol Watson

JoAnn Mulhern



Community Flower & Garden Show 2017

We are beginning to prepare for the 2017 Community Flower & Garden Show. Hopefully many people on last year's Committee will volunteer for the 2017 Committee. We are also looking for new Committee volunteers as well. Please send me an email if you are interested in volunteering to be on the 2017 Community Flower & Garden Show Committee.

Bernie Juurlink

Library

Now is the time to think about adding new books to our library collection. Winter is the best time to curl up with a new book on plants and plant combinations and daydream about your spectacular garden in 2017. Send in requests for new titles and new topics to Janice Rose.

Please remember to return all borrowed books at our next meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting contact Janice to arrange a return.



*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

Plant Sales Table

Remember to bring any plants that you would like to donate. Also, if you have extra harvest you would like to share for the plant table, pots you no longer need (not the black plastic ones.) or any other appropriate garden item(s).

Monika Morgan



September Raffle News

We asked and you responded!

Our Grand Prize was a box of many jars of hand crafted preserves and dried fruits-a meaningful gift of time and fruits from the earth. Thank You **Pat Spezowka** for your generous gift.

Norman Redcliffe donated a beautiful bouquet of Dahlias picked especially from his garden to grace the fortunate winner's home.

Bobbie Burns donated a fall bouquet, but not mentioned was the "found" charming pottery bowl the flowers were in, to use for future arrangements.

A set of magnetic words most associated with the garden. One places these words on the fridge or other magnetic surface and uses the imagination to create poetry, sentences, jokes, reminders, (or maybe a hint) for family and friends to read.

Last but not least a styling cloth, lined, eco-friendly bag to carry your goods or give to a friend.

Thank you all for the fun and supporting our raffle

September Raffle Committee: Janet Abbott, Bobbie Burns, Norman Redcliffe, Pat Spezowka

PS: - Gift donators for October: **Ann Baty** and **Dustin Carlson** ---- surprises await!

- **Jackie Kitzler** (Island Java Bags) states she never turns away and appreciates coffee bags, so if you have a supply of clean coffee bags please bring them to Bobbie at the raffle table for recycle.

Mill Bay Garden Club

General Meeting

September 27, 2016 7 pm

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Speaker

Rachelle McElroy (Exec. Dir. Coastal Invasive Species Committee) spoke on Invasive Species - **"Be Plantwise; Grow me instead!"** She spoke about types of invasive plants, their control, and their effect on the landscapes of British Columbia.

Coffee break

Minutes

- Acceptance of May 2016 minutes
- AJ moved; Bev Davy seconded, passed

Reports

- **Treasurer Report: Marie Cooke**
 - We have \$930.64. in funds.
 - We have a student bursary that will be given out. More information will be coming.
- **Website: Marie Cooke**
 - Marie wants to make the website more fun and interactive. There will be a theme every month. This month's theme is fall colours. Please send pictures to Marie of fall colours, and please indicate you are giving your permission for their use.
- **Membership: JoAnn Mulhern**
 - There are ten new members at the September meeting who were introduced.
- **Library: Mary Heath and Janette Lorimer**
 - Two new "Fine gardening" magazines came in and some new pamphlets on introduced weeds.
 - Janette explained how the library works to new members.
- **Plant Sales: Sharon Martin**
 - Monika Morgan asked for more donations of plants for next month!
- **Raffle: Bobbie Burns**
 - Thanks to everyone for their kind donations to the raffle.
- **Kitchen:**
 - Volunteer sheet distributed.
- **Historian: Mary Gale**
 - Several of our members have been ill and came out for the first time since their illness to this meeting.
 - Ali was sent a card of condolence from the club for the loss of her husband.

Members Forum

- Elaine talked about the Master Gardeners Conference "Mixing It Up In The Urban Garden". Register now! There is an informational pamphlet available for the conference. Check our newsletter in spring for Master Gardener clinics.
- The Heather Society is presenting a speaker at Sylvan United Church on October 3 at 7 pm. The featured speaker is Jeff Dejong.
- Check our newsletter for Master Gardeners (VMG and VIMGA) 2017 clinic dates.
- Fran spoke about her Master Gardener film and asked for volunteers.

(cont'd next page)

Mill Bay Garden Club

General Meeting (cont'd)

September 27, 2016 7 pm

Brag Table (Barb Kohlman)

- Barb discussed an array of flowers and vegetables.
- Dustin mentioned that it is mushroom season. He recommended an excellent book "Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest" by Steve Trudell and Joe Ammirati.
- Barb reminds us all to clean up our roses, remove leaves and flowers to prevent blackspot fungus.

Q and A (Elaine Scott)

- There was discussion of disease in Cherry trees and a late season unusable fig crop.

Adjourn: 9:05pm

Gardening Tips

for November/December 2016

by

Barb Kohlman, Master Gardener



Guess we don't have to water anymore this season.

Move container plants to a sheltered site----depending on winter temperatures, either the shed, garage, greenhouse or just under an overhang.

Empty, clean and store summer planters---or if they are weatherproof containers plant them up with winter "annuals" like pansies, flowering kale and evergreen grasses or small conifers:

- One "thriller, several "fillers" (e.g. the pansies) and at least one "spiller".

Finish planting conifers and spring flowering bulbs.

Have you cleaned up those roses yet? Strip off all flowers and leaves---rake up the ground area and apply a new mulch (other leaves, compost, sea soil) to smother soil diseases and protect the soil from heavy rains and dispose of all debris. (I personally do this into a compost bin that will have all winter and spring to break down pathogens---a matter of choice)

Drain, clean and store garden hoses and turn off outside taps.

You can spread dolomite lime around the root zone of plants like *Syringa* (lilacs), *Philadelphus* (mock orange), and *Deutzia* to help to keep an alkaline environment that they prefer.

Your veggie beds are a good place for this treatment also.

For blooms for Christmas, plant paper whites by late November.

Cheers,

Barb

Rotten Weed Rant

As our wonderful gardening season slowly draws to a close I like to look back at some of my favourite plants as well as the plants that really got my goat! Chief "goat getter" is a horrible weed known as Creeping Wood Sorrel. If ever there was a stinking rotten weed it was this plant! I know, you are thinking I am going off on a RANT about a plant. Yes well, don't you agree that this is one irritating weed? It gets into everything and spreads everywhere.



My husband reminds me that this little plant really doesn't do any harm and must be admired for its tenacity. I have to admit Creeping Wood Sorrel is amazingly successful because it has strategies. You likely have met it when it blasted its seeds straight into your eyeballs. It has upright seed capsules and can actually shoot those millions of tiny seeds over 10 feet away. It then pops up in your grass, containers, flower beds, compost heap, gumboots, hair, well maybe not the last two but you get the idea!

It has a creeping habit and small yellow flowers. Its leaves look like a small red green clover. The stems of this plant will root where it touches the ground, but the main means of spread is by seed, ejected forcibly from the ripe seedpods. However, in our ever-warming climate I find this plant simply dies back to it's roots and pops up the next year. The seeds last a long time in a cold compost pile.

The leaves of wood sorrel are quite edible with a tangy sour taste. It has been used for culinary and medicinal purposes for centuries. Sorrel contains oxalic acid. This can be dangerous if taken in large quantities and it is poisonous to cattle. Its spread across the world is phenomenal. It's everywhere from the roadsides of Mozambique to the temples of Cambodia and the rice fields of Japan. And my backyard, thank you very much!

Hey! You can come and complain about your weeds at the next Mill Bay Garden Club meeting on Tuesday October 25th 6:45 pm at the Mill Bay Community Hall!

Fran Benton

Upcoming Events

Cowichan Valley Green Community Incubator Seed Farm Grand Opening!

**Saturday, October 22nd, 2016
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
2471 Beverly Street, Duncan**

Join the Cowichan Green Community to celebrate the grand opening of Canada's first Incubator Seed Farm. Learn about how saving seeds locally can contribute to food security in the Cowichan Valley and globally.

Join us for a fun filled afternoon of community building, farm tours, and seed saving workshops. Snacks and hot beverages will be provided.



Affiliated with the Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia

Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants!

October 30, 2016: 10:45 AM – 4 PM

Beban Park Social Centre, 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo

Cost: \$20 (cash or cheque only; limited space. To reserve: toulousei@shaw.ca)

Seminars on Soil Health presented by Master Gardeners: Jo-Ann Canning, Yasir Syed, and Gary Lewis.

Bring your own lunch/mug, or order lunch from the Café in Beban Park prior to the start of the day. Coffee and Tea will be provided.

Plant Sale after the seminars!

MIXING IT UP IN THE URBAN GARDEN 2017

Our Gardens of the Future

January 28, 2017

- Just a reminder that the cost of the tickets for this conference increases on November 1, 2016 to \$95. **The price of the ticket until Oct 31 is \$75.**
- Over 70% of the tickets have already been sold out. Register now!
- Register at Master Gardener web site (www.mgabc.org) and click on the Victoria Chapter. OR.... If you want to pay directly I have registration forms. Phone me at 250-743-0965 or email TheScottRogers@aol.com
- This is always a great sold out gardening event just when we are starting to think about getting out in our gardens again.

Submitted by Elaine Scott

Please see Full Brochure on following page

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)

