



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

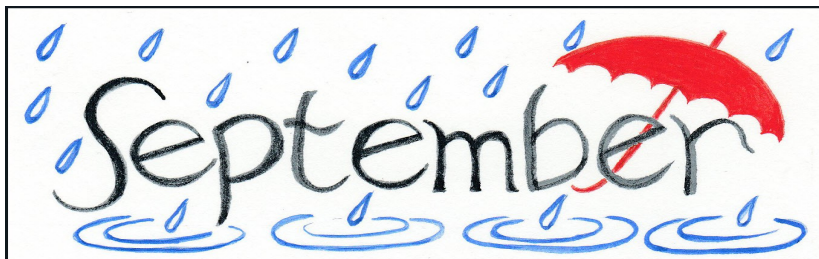
Date: **Tues, September 23, 2025**

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

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

Activities:

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



WELCOME, AND WELCOME BACK!

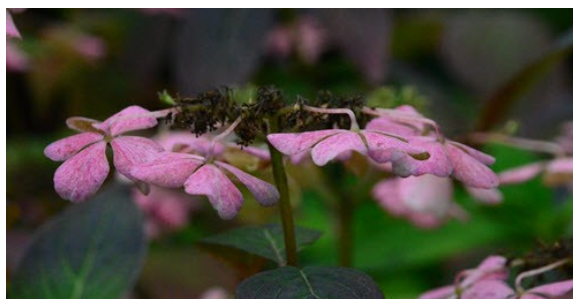
Welcome one and all to the first meeting and the opening of the Mill Bay Garden Club's 41st season!

September Speaker

Bryan Emery on

Let's Talk Orchids!

See page 3 for details



September Brag Table Theme:

September Splendours

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. If you've never participated, give it a fling, be it flower, vegetable or fungus!

A little ray of sunshine...

Club member and Flower and Garden Show Coordinator Janice Rose has stepped into the shoes filled for so many years by Mary Gale. Janice will continue sending cards to members experiencing illness or loss on behalf of the Mill Bay Garden Club, bringing a spot of sunshine into a stressful time for a club member. If you know of someone in the club who is sick, in hospital, or has lost a loved one, please let Janice know and she will send a card on our behalf.



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President's Message - September 2025

Richard Nelson

Mill Bay Garden Club supposedly takes summer off but the Club definitely doesn't stand still. In the time since our May general meeting the Club has put on the highly successful Community Flower and Garden Show, held an Annual General Meeting and made our presence felt at the Cobble Hill Fair.

The Community Flower and Garden Show involved more than ninety volunteer club members, an amazing testament to individual and collective commitment. On the day of the Show cool and damp weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of either the crowds or the volunteers as we saw record attendance, plant sales, and entries in the show. All silent auction items were sold. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Show.

Our Annual General Meeting in June was held in the beautifully artful garden of Gayle Volker and Randy Thompson for the second year running, thank you for again offering your space and giving of your hospitality. In the wake of the AGM most of the leadership and committee heads are unchanged though we do have a new Membership Chair, Alicia Wonsiak has stepped up to take over from Robin Reid.

Alicia and Robin teamed up to organize and set up the Club booth at Cobble hill

Fair last month. The Club booth was thronged with interested visitors throughout the day until the intense August afternoon heat drove most fair goers into the shade. We were able to give away three sets of potted succulents in a draw and attract new members as well as touch base with many Club members and interested fair goers. Thank you to the volunteers who staffed the booth throughout that hot day.

A highly satisfying result of our successful year is our ability to give back to the community. At the first Executive Meeting of this year it was decided to donate funds to the following community groups:

- CMS Food Bank \$1500
- Cowichan Hospice \$1000
- Nourish Cowichan \$500
- Somenos House in special recognition of Elaine Scott \$1500
- Shawnigan Basin Society \$500

In addition there have been extra funds extended to our Bursary to allow the Club to provide two \$1000 bursaries this year.

I am looking forward to more great camaraderie, education and sharing through this MBGC year. I am also looking forward to cooler, wetter fall weather to refresh the parched land – fill the rivers fill the pools.

In Gardening, Richard

Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting Agenda September 23, 2025

I. Call to Order: 7:00pm.

- a) Approval of the Agenda:
- b) Approval of the minutes of May 25, 2024 General Meeting
- c) President's Message: Richard Nelson
- d) Executive & Committee reports:
- e) Questions for the Executive:
- f) Brag Table: September Splendour
- g) Garden related questions with our Master Gardeners:
- h) Award Ceremony

Break . . .

2. Presentation 8:00pm. **Brian Emery: Let's Talk Orchids**

h) Adjournment.

Executive Members

President

Richard Nelson

Vice President

Kathy Code

Treasurer

Gord Hamilton

Secretary

Carol Goodger-Hill

Past-President

Gill Keir

September's Speaker (Tuesday, September 23):

Bryan Emery: Let's Talk Orchids!

Bryan Emery, proprietor of Bryan's Specialty Plants, started growing orchids when he was ten years old, continuing to grow and cultivate flowers since then. It is truly a labour of love, with particular interest in unique plants and the "diversity in the plant world."

His collection has been evolving for over 25 years: annuals, perennials, houseplants, cacti, succulents. He has worked hard to offer new plant material into our market. Based in Victoria, BC, Bryan's Plants ships plants throughout Canada.

Bryan's home garden was featured in the Victoria Conservatory of Music's 2022 Musical Mother's Day Garden Tour. He is active in exhibiting entries in Cacti and Succulent societies, the VI Rock and Alpine Society and the Victoria Lily Society, where he won the 2023 Show Grand Prize for his vast number of amazing entries. He can also be found selling plants at many shows and cool pop-up plant sales in Victoria, such as the popular Plantaholics Sale.

He will bring some orchids for sale, as well as some perennials and houseplants. Bryan enjoys hands-on demos, so members are welcome to bring plants along for which they have questions.

Committee Leads

Membership

Alicia Wonsiak

Flower & Garden Show

Janice Rose

Library

Katherine Miller

Kitchen

Judy Raimondo

Plant Sales

Carrie Nelson

Cont'd next page...

Committee Reports

Notes from the Library

I hope everyone has had an amazing summer. Thank you in advance for finding and returning the books you signed out in May. I will miss the September and October meetings as I will be travelling but Nancy Bonner has kindly agreed to be the acting librarian. She will display the new books and shelve your book returns and answer your library related questions.

Thank you Nancy!

Yours in reading,

Katherine

MBGC Library Lead

Membership News

Such a great time at the **Cobble Hill Fair!**

The day was warm and the crowd abundant at the MBGC booth at the Cobble Hill Fair held Saturday, August 23, 2025. A big thank you to volunteers Carol, Bou, Katherine, Brian, Skip, Fran, Robin, and Richard! Congrats to draw prize winners Bou Champion, Lim Laing, and Jo Addison!

Welcome new members Valerie Jackson, Teryl Pirozok, Toni Handy, Renta McAlorum and Micky Capra!

A friendly reminder, the annual \$20 membership fee for 2025-26 is due in September. **Members**

are asked to pay by e-transfer to mbgcfees@gmail.com (please note this new email address) or by cash/cheque at the monthly meeting in September (come early to avoid the rush!)

Alicia Wonsiak

Membership Chair



...from previous page

Committee Leads (cont'd)

Bursary

Ann Baty

Sunshine

Janice Rose

Brag Table

Barb Kohlman

Memorial Garden

Heather Jenkins

Raffle

Stephanie Taylor

Website Administrator

Gord Hamilton

Social Media

Pat Spezowka

Newsletter Editor

Dave Byrnes

Social Media

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

News and Committee Reports (continued)

Social Media News

Hello Fall Gardeners,

As you know from the information I've sent out to all of you, we've made a big change to the MBGC's Facebook account. We are now Mill Bay Garden Club Group. It's taken a bit of time and some \$\$\$ words but finally is up and running. Now that it's done we need members. Thank you to those who got right on it and joined already, but, to make this site informative and fun we need more members and lots of communication. Show off your beautiful flowers and vegetables or ask questions. If members can't answer them I will take them to the next general meeting to get answers from the pros. Share the site with friends who you know will be contributing members. As far as advertisers go we are accepting only local nurseries, greenhouses and other gardening related businesses.

Join from Facebook by searching for Mill Bay Garden Club Group.

I look forward to seeing you on Facebook,

Pat Spezowka
Social Media Admin

Committee Help Requested

Raffle Committee member wanted. Stephanie Taylor would appreciate a partner to share the Raffle Committee. It is a fun way to meet people and give out the prizes. Please contact Gill or Stephanie, if you have any questions. Contact details on pages 3 & 4.

Memorial Garden Clean Up



Volunteers needed for the fall clean up
Saturday October 10th
10.00 am

Many hands make light work. Bring your weeding and pruning tools. It's always fun. Get to know some of your fellow club members while you weed and chat.

Heather Jenkins

News and Committee Reports (continued)

From the Plant Sales Table

DIVIDE and CONQUER!

It's that time of year again. Time to divide many perennials, especially if they're getting congested and haven't bloomed in a few years. The best practice prior to dividing all perennials is to water them deeply the day before you dig them up so the plants are well hydrated. Also, prepare pots or garden beds in the garden ahead of time, ready to receive divisions. Then, dig up the whole clump if you can, use a strong water stream to remove as much soil as possible, and tease the roots apart. Or, in the case of huge clumps with impossibly tangled roots, use a sharp shovel to split the roots apart, ensuring you have some growth tips in each section. If dividing bamboo, you'll likely need a reciprocating saw to remove it from the ground and to divide it.

If you are willing to pot up a few plants for the monthly meeting plant sales or for the Community Flower and Garden Show in June, that will be greatly appreciated. If you bring plants to the monthly meetings, please bring potted plants or bare rooted plants in plastic bags ready for sale, with a label (the named variety or simply the type and colour (i.e. Daylily – orange.)

Plants to DIVIDE in the Fall:

Peonies, Phlox

Astilbe, Salvia, Veronica

Siberian and Bearded Iris

Daylilies, Lilies, Bletilla Striata (hardy orchids)

Hostas, Ligularia, Rodgersia, Brunnera

Rudbeckia, Echinacea, Gaillardia, Shasta daisies, Coreopsis

Hardy Geraniums, Yarrow

Heuchera, Epimedium, hardy Tradescantia

Ferns, Ornamental grasses

Plants to take CUTTINGS of in the Fall:

Rhododendrons, Fuschias, Hydrangeas, Forsythia. Honeysuckle, & Jasmine, just to name a few.

Dahlias, after the tops die down, ought to be dug up, cleaned up, free of moisture, and stored in a cool, dry location until Spring (I use a closable cardboard box). Divide in the Spring once the growth buds start to show on the neck of the tubers, next to the central stock.

“How to” take cuttings of, or divide specific plants, can be found in books or on the Internet.

Propagation is fun and rewarding and provides a way to expand your garden, or, exchange plants with neighbours and MBGC members, so give it a try!

Carrie Nelson



Treasurer's Report

The Income Statement and Balance Sheet for last year are in this month's newsletter. I am pleased to report that due to the very successful Flower and Garden Show we finished the year with an Operating Income of \$6,669.19. The executive has made the decision to donate \$4,500 of that amount to worthy organizations which leaves us with a Net Income of \$2,169.19.

The cash positions on the balance sheet reflect the reflect the amounts required to pay for the hall rental, fund our bursaries and the Flower and Garden Show. The F&GS expenses are paid up front before we receive any revenue from the show.

Also included in the newsletter is the proposed budget for the upcoming year.

Key things to note:

1. We have increased to speaker's budget to allow for additional travel expenses in an effort to attract speakers further away.
2. We have decided to increase the bursary amount to \$1000 each from the \$750 last year.
3. The hall rental has increased and this budget reflects the new rates that we are paying
4. We have tried to be conservative on the Flower and Garden Show as the revenue from this can vary greatly from year to year.

Important: E-Transfers for Memberships

We have changed the email address for e-transfers. If you are sending money to the club please use the new address: mbgcfees@gmail.com. If you happen to send money to our previous email mbgcmembership@gmail.com don't worry. It will still be deposited but we would prefer that you use the new one.

Gord Hamilton

Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting May 28, 2024

President Richard Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Norman Redcliffe moved approval of the agenda; seconded by Sally Emory. Passed

Norman Redcliffe moved approval of the minutes of the general meeting of April 22, 2025

President: Richard announced the passing of long time garden club member Elaine Scott.

Executive Reports

Past President: The AGM is coming up and we need to fill the position of Membership Chair. The rest of Gill's report is in the Newsletter.

Vice President: Kathy Code would welcome suggestions for future speakers

Treasurer: Gord was not present but we are in good financial condition.

Membership: Robin Reid introduced a new member

Flower and Garden Show: Al Mikalishen said there will be a name tag for every volunteer at the show. There are still a few key spots on the volunteer list that need filling so the clip board is going round again tonight. We need people for set up and take down and also someone to do the final check after everything has been taken away.

Janice Rose said that the show is at the end of this week. Everyone should enter a plant or flower or arrangement . The brochure is available here tonight and also on the web page. Carrie Nelson's informative drawing on how to prepare your entry was also on display.

Plant Sale: Katherine Miller said we have a lot of plants this year. Tomorrow is the last day to drop off plants since they will be priced tomorrow afternoon.

Silent Auction: Jennie said she has 85 donations so far, both gift cards and items. Donation forms are available tonight. We need volunteer runners for the Show.

Sunshine: Two cards have been sent to members who are ill. Elaine Scott and her husband Ian died together recently. Janice has sent a card to the Plantaholics Group and there will be a memorial to Elaine at the Flower and Garden Show.

Social Media: Pat has put an article in the Newsletter on her progress. Please read it.

Library: Katherine has now arranged all the books alphabetically. Today you may check books out for the summer. Al Mikalishen has donated several books on dahlias to the library.

Kathy Muirhead announced that Vancouver Island Regional Library has seeds for free - so take advantage of it.

Raffle: Stephanie described the items on the table tonight

Bursary: Two students have been selected to receive our bursaries in June.

Plant Sales: Carrie announced that there are lots of plants tonight, tomatoes, herbs and also several pairs of garden gloves.

Kitchen: We have lots of goodies tonight. Judy passed around the sign up sheet for September. Everyone should bring something for the AGM.

Car Pooling: Sally has one person who needs a ride and 12 people who have offered to give rides.

Brag Table: Marvelous May Bouquets: Fran Benton and Barb Kohlman showed us wonderful bouquets of rhodos, maple leaves, vases of flowers and a potted cactus in bloom.

At 7:35 we broke for refreshments and reconvened at 7:57.

Raffle: The prizes tonight included a greenhouse thermometer, a pair of secateurs, a book and a bird feeder.

Kathy Code introduced out speaker Bethany Couture who is speaking on Permaculture for Edible Gardeners. Bethany is a holistic horticulturalist from Victoria. She is a certified permaculturist and herbalist and is passionate about sustainable gardening. She specializes in edible, medicinal and native plants that benefit people, wildlife and the planet. She designs landscapes rich in edible plants and has a web site <http://www.GardenAlchemist.ca> and Bethany@GardenAlchemist.ca

Her talk emphasized the need to respect and nurture the earth, to sustainably manage our resources and preserve the environment for the future.

Robin Reid moved adjournment at 9:10 PM.

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB
INCOME STATEMENT
For the Year Ending July 31, 2025

INCOME

Membership Dues	2,280.00
Plant Sales	1,115.35
Raffle	309.25
Kitchen	241.35
Flower and Garden Show	7,214.60
F&GS Plant Sale	3,507.00
Memorial Garden	500.00
Book Sales	101.25
Name Tags	12.00
Interest & Misc	127.69
TOTAL INCOME	<u>15,408.49</u>

EXPENSES

Rent	725.00
Speaker Presentations	425.00
Donations	0.00
Bursary	1,500.00
BCCGC Fees and Insurance	244.00
Flower and Garden Show	4,134.35
Equipment	236.15
Library	345.12
Annual General Meeting	150.00
Christmas Party	172.94
Web Site / Zoom	330.45
Name Tags / Engraving	22.85
Membership Promotion	134.00
Awards	176.80
Bank Service Charges	92.84
General	49.80
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>8,739.30</u>
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	<u>6,669.19</u>
DONATIONS	4,500.00
NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u>2,169.19</u>

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB
BALANCE SHEET
As at July 31, 2025

ASSETS

Current Assets

General Account	4,605.43	
Bursary Fund	2,545.00	
F&GS Account	<u>3,894.26</u>	
Bank Accounts	11,044.69	
Membership Float	50.00	
Plant Sale Float	50.00	
Raffle Float	<u>25.00</u>	
Total Floats	125.00	
Prepaid Expenses	162.50	
Total Current Assets		11,332.19

Reserves

Term Deposit	1,066.24	
F&GS Term Deposit	<u>2,281.98</u>	
Total Reserves	3,348.22	3,348.22

TOTAL ASSETS		<u>14,680.41</u>
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LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Bursaries Payable	<u>1,500.00</u>	
Total Current Liabilities	1,500.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,500.00

EQUITY

Club Members Equity	6,659.13	
Retained Earnings - Beginning Balance	4,352.09	
plus Net Income	<u>2,169.19</u>	
Retained Earnings - Ending Balance	6,521.28	
TOTAL EQUITY		13,180.41
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		<u>14,680.41</u>

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB
BUDGET
Year Ending July 31, 2026

INCOME

Membership Dues	1,700.00
Plant Sales	400.00
Raffle	320.00
Kitchen	240.00
Flower and Garden Show	6,500.00
F&GS Plant Sales	1,800.00
Memorial Garden	500.00
Book Sales	150.00
Name Tags	100.00
Donations	0.00

TOTAL INCOME	<hr/> 11,710.00
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EXPENSES

Rent	1,080.00
Speaker Presentations	1,500.00
Bursary	2,000.00
Equipment Repair/Replace	500.00
BCCGC Fees and Insurance	300.00
Flower and Garden Show	4,500.00
Library	400.00
Annual General Meeting	200.00
Christmas Party	250.00
Web Site	330.00
Name Tags / Engraving	100.00
Administraton and Misc	100.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	<hr/> 11,260.00
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NET INCOME (LOSS)	<hr/> 450.00 <hr/>
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