



# MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.millbaygardenclub.com](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com)

Email: [mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com)

## Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, April 22, 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!**

# APRIL

## April Brag Table Theme:

### *April... Showers*

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

## April Speaker: **Bernie Dinter** **on Dwarf Conifers**

*See page 3 for details*



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## A little ray of sunshine...

Club member and Flower and Garden show chair Janice Rose sends card on behalf of the Club to members experiencing illness or loss, 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.



## President's Message: April 2025

Richard Nelson

I came to Shawnigan Lake in 1957; my mother engineered the move of our family from a Northern Alberta farm - a move from rich but short season farming country to the gardening paradise of Southeastern Vancouver Island where the growing season was seemingly never ending. I have a fond memory from then of going with my mother to the 'Flower Show' at the old Shawnigan Lake Community Hall. This Flower Show, an early precursor to the current Community Flower and Garden Show, made a strong impression on me. To be in that large hall with row upon row of display tables filled with vases of vibrant blossoms, verdant foliage and succulent vegetables epitomized the possibilities offered by taking advantage of sun, soil, rain and a little sweat. Visiting the Flower Show at an early age contributed significantly to my engagement in the gardening life. I hope to see lots of youngsters out to this year's Community Flower and Garden Show falling under the spell of the magical possibilities inherent in the pursuit of gardening.

We are just over a month away from the 76th Community Flower and Garden Show at the end of May. A large contingent of volunteers have been working for several months to plan all the fine detail essential to making the Show a success. Entry categories are organized, plants for the sale are

growing on, silent auction offerings are accumulating, vendors are lined up and a Strawberry Tea is brewing. We continue accepting volunteers to join in staging this event which promises to be a kick off into summer.

On the day of the Fair one of the biggest contributors to success will be the participation of exhibitors. There is so wide a range of categories to enter exhibits that anyone can find something to suit their style. Pretty much anything you have growing in or near your yard is fair game to enter in a category. I am considering entering bouquet of Dandelion, Plantain, Dead nettle, Oxeye daisy and Buttercup in the native flower and/or foliage category though only the Buttercup is truly native - the rest are naturalized introductions. The fun is in entering and sharing what you grow. Winning is optional, it is not reserved for the competitive because every entry has a chance and the more entries the more chances. The cost is only \$0.50 per entry and exhibitors get free admission to the Show.

Get yourselves involved, invite your friends and neighbours to join in and by all means let's get the kids involved. See you at the Community Flower and Garden Show.

In gardening,

*Richard*

## 22 April 2025, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda

- 1) 7:00 p.m.: Call to Order
  - a) Approval of the agenda
  - b) Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
  - c) President's Report – Richard Nelson
    - i.) Social media
  - d) Executive Committee reports
  - e) Questions for the Executive
  - f) Brag Table: April Showers
  - g) Garden-related Questions with our Master Gardeners
- Break
- 2) 8:00 p.m. Speaker: **Bernie Dinter - Dwarf Conifers**
  - h) Adjournment

## April's Speaker:

### Bernie Dinter on Dwarf Conifers

Bernie grew up on the campus of Shawnigan Lake School, where his father was a gardener from 1952 to 1972. He graduated from Shawnigan Lake School in 1969 and in 1976 graduated from UBC with a degree in Plant Science.

Bernie's father began Dinter's Nursery in 1973 and Bernie has been managing nursery operations since 1976. Bernie's daughter Tamara is now the general manager. The nursery has been supporting gardeners in the Cowichan Valley for over 50 years and now attracts customers from all over Vancouver Island.

Bernie is a member of the 'Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society', Duncan Rotary Club and a member of the 'BC Institute of Agrologists'.

### Dwarf Conifer – A Journey into the Miniature

Dwarf conifers allow the creation of gardens that fit your actual space. Gardens are shrinking as modern residences are built on smaller lots. Many species that we know as large trees are available in dwarf forms with their hardiness, interesting colours, textures and range of shapes. All the major conifer genera will be reviewed to show what is available to create a beautiful, small-scale garden.

## Executive Members

### President

Richard Nelson

### Vice President

Kathy Code

### Treasurer

Gord Hamilton

### Secretary

Carol Goodger-Hill

### Past-President

Gill Keir

## Committee Leads

### Membership

Robin Reid

### Flower & Garden Show

Janice Rose

### Library

Katherine Miller

### Kitchen

Judy Raimondo

### Plant Sales

Carrie Nelson

*Cont'd next page...*

## Committee Reports

### From the Kitchen

Just the usual reminder for folks to bring their own cup for coffee time, and a big thanks to all the volunteers who signed up to bring treats and help in the kitchen.

*Judy*



### Notes from the Library

I have some new books to share with you at the next meeting, including half a dozen on designing, installing and maintaining water gardens, which were kindly donated by Dave Byrnes. I have also picked up a gardening book for young people that you might like to share with any little people in your life.

Until the next meeting, yours in reading,

*Katherine Miller*  
*Garden club librarian*

### Plant Sales - General Meeting

Now I can see the hostas coming up, hooray! With all the rain they are easy to lift & divide. What is very slow this year are the Dahlias. Previously I started them in flats on heat mats but I just have too many so they are in the unheated greenhouse. They should be saleable by May 31.

Any plants, preferably labeled, including veggie starts, are always welcome at the general meeting plant table, April 22. See you there.

*Carrie*

### Memorial Garden Clean Up

**Volunteers for the next Clean Up required!**

**Saturday May 10th 10:00am**

**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**

*...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

[www.Millbaygardenclub.com](http://www.Millbaygardenclub.com)

#### **Social Media**

Pat Spezowka

[www.facebook.com/  
millbaygardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub)

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Dave Byrnes

[mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com)

### Social Media

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

[www.facebook.com/  
millbaygardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub)

## Committee Reports (continued)

### Membership

Thanks to all of you, we are a moving and shaking garden club providing lots of information to people who are learning to grow from the people in this club who have grown many different types of plants over the years. Sharing our resources!

Which is why I need 2 to 3 volunteers to help to continue to grow our membership (man our booth) for our upcoming garden and plant sale at the end of May. Who is interested? Talk to me at the next meeting or feel free to give me (Robin) a call. Can't wait to hear from you!

*Robin*

### Executive Elections Coming in June

At the Annual General Meeting in June, members will be asked to vote in a new Executive for the Club year, starting in September. The Executive is comprised of Officers, Past President and Committee Chairs.

The Officers are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Committees are Bursary, Facebook, Flower & Garden Show, Kitchen, Library, Membership, Memorial Garden, Newsletter, Plant Sales, Raffle and Webmaster. There is also the function of 'Sunshine' that sends Club wishes to members and family that have fallen ill or passed away.

All these positions are open for Club members to be nominated to stand for election.

Traditionally, however, the position of President is for a two-year period, as is the position of Vice President, with the Vice President generally taking up the position of President when the President's two-year term is up, unless of course someone else is elected for these positions.

So please nominate someone, or yourself, for any Executive position.

I have been on the executive for quite a few years and enjoy being a member of this great group.

Please let me know if you wish to nominate someone or yourself.

*Gill Keir*

*Past President*

## Car Pool to MBGC Meetings

Not able to attend MB garden club meetings because you don't have a vehicle or don't feel comfortable driving at night?

Your fellow members are missing you and we are organizing a carpooling service.

If you are interested in carpooling (riding or driving) please contact Sally Emory. She will do her best to match riders with drivers.

*Sally Emory*

## Mill Bay Garden Club 76th Flower & Garden Show Silent Auction

We are very proud to say that the Garden Club was very successful in fundraising at the 2024 Flower & Garden show and made donations to the following local charities:

- Two bursaries to two students pursuing careers in horticulture,
- Nourish Cowichan,
- Shawnigan Basin Society,
- Cowichan Hospice,
- Somenos Transition House, and the
- CMS Food Bank.

**That was incredible team work by everyone. We couldn't do it without you!**

The Silent Auction is a central attraction of the day, and we ask you to donate something for inclusion. Donations can include goods, gift certificates or services. Put on your "creative hats"! It could be something you make, buy, refurbish, or a gently worn item. Most importantly, you will share in the grateful thanks from the individuals and organizations who benefit from the Silent Auction's success!

We also need volunteers for Friday, May 30th to set up tables etc., and Saturday, May 31st, the day of the show. Please get in touch if you have questions about potential donations and/or if you can help. **Many hands make light work ..... and it is fun!**

**Please bring your donations to a club meeting or contact Shari (by phone or email) to drop it off to her house.**

**2025 Silent Auction Committee:**

Jennifer Campbell

Shari Wilson

Susan Rudolph



Nanaimo Gladiolus and Dahlia Society



**Glad Corm & Dahlia Tuber Sale**

**Saturday  
April 26, 2025  
10 am – 2 pm**

**Country Club Mall**  
3200 North Island Highway  
Nanaimo



Cash, debit or credit  
[www.nanaimogladiolusanddahliaociety.ca](http://www.nanaimogladiolusanddahliaociety.ca)



**Spring Plant Sale**

**THE GARDENS AT HCP** **9AM - 4PM**  
SAT. APRIL 26 AND SUN. APRIL 27, 2025



Find many unique plants propagated from the Gardens at HCP



10 % Off for HCP Members

Admission to the gardens is **free** during the plant sale, so take time to peruse the gardens!

505 Quayle Road  
Victoria, BC

Visit us online  
[www.hcp.ca](http://www.hcp.ca)

**COWICHAN VALLEY RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

**Plant Sale**

**Saturday, May 3, 2025, 10am-2pm**

**New location: THE HUB**  
2375 Koksilah Road, Duncan





- Unique and Special Rhododendrons
- Hundreds of Companion Plants – Hostas, Peonies, Perennials, Companion & Shade Plants
- RHODODENDRON TRUSS SHOW
- Knowledgeable Gardeners to Answer Questions
- SUITABLE PARKING AVAILABLE

Website: [Cowichanrhodos.ca](http://Cowichanrhodos.ca)  
Email: [cowichanvalleyrhododendron@gmail.com](mailto:cowichanvalleyrhododendron@gmail.com)

Visit our site



**Victoria Cactus & Succulent Society**  
[www.vcss.info](http://www.vcss.info)

**2025 Spring Show & Sale**





Friday May 9, 12 - 7 pm  
Saturday May 10, 10 - 4 pm

510 Mt View Ave., Colwood  
(Church of the Advent)

**FREE ADMISSION**

## Gardening Tips for April 2025 by Barb Kohlman

Take cuttings of over-wintered Pelargoniums (tender geraniums) and Fuchsias, and pot them up to encourage rooting. Pot them on to their summer locations when well-rooted.

Cut down group C Clematis to about 12". These are the late blooming clematis that bloom on new wood.



### Plant those cool-season veggies now

UBC garden instructor Egan Davies says any vegetable where you're eating the leaves, such as spinach, arugula or kale, are considered cool-season plants. They can be planted outdoors now. "Then anything you eat the fruit from, like tomato or any of the squashes, those plants are warm season," he said in an interview with *North By Northwest's* Sheryl MacKay.

"Even if you're starting them inside, those plants need heat and it won't warm up in most parts of the province until later this April or May, so you might start them off in April, and plant them out in May."

Dolomite lime spread over root area of lilac, mock orange, deutzia would be a good thing to do now.

Place supports for tall or floppy flowers before plants are fully grown and it is too late.

Divide and transplant (or pot up for the Flower and Garden Show plant sale) summer and fall bloomers.

Cheers for the warming weather

*barb kohlman*

## Plant Sale - Flower & Garden Show

Thank you to the volunteers who have replied to me with offers of help. We could still use another one or two helpers at the table for both the morning (9-12 am) and the afternoon (12-3 pm) shifts .

Keep potting up those extra plants. It's going to be a great sale.

*Katherine Miller*

*Plant sale lead*



## Mill Bay Garden Club's Flower & Garden Show - May 30th & 31st

The 2025 Flower & Garden Show (May 30th & 31st) is only one month away. Many of us are now looking to our gardens and our seedlings to assess what we hope to enter into the show. Please be sure to consult this year's brochure with its updated classes of flowers and vegetables we can enter.

The success of the show depends on our entries but also upon members volunteering to help. On Friday, we need help in setting up the hall and in supporting participants in entering their exhibits. On Saturday, we need helpers in many capacities during the show. At this point we have around 2/3 the number of volunteers that we need to make the show run smoothly. In volunteering, you meet many club members in another context. It is a rewarding experience. We hope to hear from you if you have not yet volunteered.

If you are interested and available to volunteer, please call or e-mail Al.

The success of the show depends not only on the exhibits, but also on our volunteer participation.

## 1st Duncan Rotary Garden Tour June 1st

The Rotary Club of Duncan is excited to host its first annual Garden Tour fundraiser on Sunday, June 1, 2025. In its previous format, this popular fundraiser has attracted hundreds of attendees who have enjoyed visiting some of the most spectacular gardens in the Cowichan Valley.

"We are honoured that six local garden owners have generously opened their gardens for the public tour this year," says Duncan Rotary President Karen Thorington. "From Rhodos to Roses and rare flowers and trees", the tour is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together to appreciate the beauty of nature while raising funds for many local community projects to assist local not-for-profit organizations.

Tickets are \$25 each and come with a map of the garden locations. They are available for sale at the following outlets:

- **Duncan**- Buckerfield's Supply Store, Volume One Bookstore,
- **Mill Bay** – The Third Addition Gifts & Toys
- **Chemainus** – Valley Roots Farm Market Garden Centre, Sandpiper Gardens & Glass

The Rotary Club of Duncan would like to thank the following sponsors who generously donated funds to assist with the Duncan Garden Tour promotion: Capstone Group Royal LePage, Country Grocer, and Dinter Nursery.

## Coming Events

**Cowichan Valley Garden Club Plant Sale:** Sunday 26 April, 10am-2pm at Siem Le'lum Gym Parking Lot, 5574 River Road, Duncan - see poster.

**The Gardens at HCP Spring Plant Sale:** Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 April, 9am-4pm at Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, 505 Quayle Road, Victoria - see -poster

**Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Plant Sale:** Saturday 3 May, 10am-2pm at the HUB, 2375 Koksilah Road, Cowichan Station - see poster.

**Victoria Cactus & Succulent Society 2025 Spring Show & Sale:** Friday 9 and Saturday 10 May, 10am-4pm at Church of the Advent, 510 Mt View Avenue, Colwood - see poster.

**Cairnsmore Gardeners Annual Plant Sale:** Saturday 10 May from 9am at Cairnsmore Place, Duncan - see poster. We will have Master Gardeners on site to answer your gardening questions. This is our main fundraiser to help us purchase plants, soil, compost and other supplies to keep the gardens beautiful, so your support is greatly appreciated!

**Mill Bay Garden Club's 76th Annual Flower & Garden Show:** Saturday 31 May, 9am-2pm at Cobble Hill Hall, 3550 Watson Avenue, Cobble Hill. Admission \$2, children free - see poster.

## A Garden Shop you may not know about...

Sheri at **The Crazy Daisy Garden Shop** at 3090 Trans-Canada Highway, right next to the Laughing Llama Convenience Store invites you to check out items for your spring garden. Sheri has a large selection of roses, bedding plants, plants for baskets, gifts and plenty more. New stock in regularly. If you didn't find us last season, please drop by soon.

## Open Garden in Ladysmith

Hello Gardeners,

My welcome garden of peonies, Siberian and irises, will be held on Saturday May 31st, from 10 am to 5pm. All are welcome!

Regards Malcolm



# Mill Bay Flower & Garden Show



## Grow & Go!

**Saturday, May 31, 2025**

Cobble Hill Hall, 3550 Watson Avenue

Adults \$2 / Children free

Join Us from 9 AM to 2 PM

### GROW!

#### Exhibit Your Prized Flowers or Veggies

Dozens of Classes to Enter  
Entries accepted May 30th

Download Exhibitor's Guide online at:  
[www.millbaygardenclub.com/show](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com/show)

Or visit these local retailers for a copy:

**Duncan:** Dinter Nursery,  
Buckerfield's and Shar-Kare

**Cobble Hill:** Country Grocer

**Mill Bay:** Thrifty Foods,  
Crazy Daisy Garden Shoppe

### GO!

#### Help Support Local Charities

Silent Auction

Dozens of delightful treasures to bid on

#### Shop, Dine and Learn at Our Garden Market

Plants and Garden Accessories,  
Strawberry Tea

Talk to Master Gardeners

#### Admire the Exhibits

Award-Winning Flowers  
and Produce

*Mill Bay Garden Club*

[www.millbaygardenclub.com](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com)

COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

# PLANT SALE

Siem Le'lum Gym Parking Lot, 5574 River Rd., Duncan



Contact Barb (250) 302-1533 or go to [www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com](http://www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com) for more SALE information

Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting March 25, 2025

Mill Bay Community Hall

President Richard Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Adoption of the Agenda: Moved by Gwen Redcliffe and seconded by Janice Rose. Passed

Adoption of the minutes of the February 25/25 meeting: Moved by Norman Redcliffe and seconded by Dustin Carlson. Passed

**Reports:**

**Past President:** – Gill Keir, nothing

**President:** Richard Nelson

Carpooling is being organized by Sally Emory. Anyone wanting a ride to meetings or anyone volunteering to drive, please contact Sally. She has sent an email with her numbers.

Social media: there will be a proposal for discussion at the next Executive meeting.

Cowichan Exhibition: They have a need for volunteers for the annual exhibition which is held in early September. Richard will provide more information soon. Randy Thompson mentioned that the exhibition usually needs about 50. They get a free weekend pass, and some duties are working with the plants, the sale items and kids.

**Vice President:** Kathy Code

Our speaker cannot attend this evening, and Kathy has arranged for an “Expert Panel” comprised of club members who have vast experiences with gardens.

**Treasurer:** Gord Hamilton

Gord assures us we are solvent.

**Membership:** Robin Reid

New members Kristie Lewis, Fran & Skip Whitfield, Alicia Wonsiak

**Raffle:** Stephanie Taylor

Thank you to those who gave raffle items.

**Plant Sales:** Carrie Nelson

Dahlia bulbs from Carrie and Robin Round.

**Kitchen:** Gayle Volker

Thank you to those who provided snacks. She is passing the board around for volunteers for the next meetings.

**Newsletter:** Dave Byrnes, nothing

**Sunshine and Flower & Garden Show:** Janice Rose

(Sunshine) A card has been sent to Lynne Wisnia

(Flower and Garden Show) Updated brochures were passed around the hall. Please read it to see what you would like to participate in. Al spoke about the list of volunteers reminding all that he will be away for a bit and would like the list finished – it’s at 50% now. Katherine reminded us to set aside plants for the show’s plant sale. Sue Rudolph showed the forms we use to donate items to the silent auction.

**Memorial Garden:** Heather Jenkins

Garden volunteer day April 12, 10am - noon



**Bursary:** Ann Baty

She asked for her committee members to meet in the back during Tea Break.

**Library:** Katherine Miller

She brought in the book in which the o/s and current borrowers are listed so we can check it.

**Misc:** Dustin Carlson

He is holding mushroom seminars and passing the boards around to participants to sign. He will also send an email to club members.

**Misc:** Richard Nelson

AGM 2025 – club members, we need a volunteer to volunteer a garden!! Thank you.

**Misc:** Richard Nelson

2024 Bursary winner, Sierra, sent a note explaining why she hasn't been able to attend a meeting. She's a student and part-time job holder.

**Brag Table:** Fran Benton and Dustin Carlson standing in for Barb Kohlman. Theme this month is March Magic.

Dustin showed a tree planter – in the shape of a lower body, waist to truncated legs. Fran found a Chinese ginger in her garden, and it fit in Dustin's tree planter.

There was a hyacinth bouquet and a few native willow twigs.

Eleanor brought a lovely white blooming plant given to her by Elaine Scott.

Randy brought a bonsai pink azalea and a bonsai Mugo pine.

Dustin brought in some wire art. A stone with a wire-shaped tree over top.

**BREAK @ 7:45 p.m.**

**Speakers:** Our expert panel with Heather Jenkins, Nick Jenkins, Carrie Nelson, Fran Benton and Dustin Carlson took questions from the club members.

Shrub hedging: "Ocean Spray" *Holodiscus discolor* – in shade; Bamboo – not running; Upright Ivy – needs support; shrub honeysuckle; Ninebark *Physocarpus sp.*

Slugs: a tray and put beer in it; make garden snakes your garden friend; use a Hori Hori knife - an amusing anecdote by Gwen on her and Norman's method of killing them.

Peach trees – grow better here with a cover, 'Frost' is a peach leaf curl resistant variety..

Celery: Tango grows well. Water with a drip line, grow in blocks, cover with leaves.

Ivy – do I have to get rid of it? Easier to cut it back to where you can live with it. Mow it. Shear it. Cut it off trees!

Morning glory: get rid of it.

Oregon Grape berries: not a major rat attraction.

Delphiniums: Douglas squirrel eating them. Spray Bobbex.

Is anyone teaching gardening to young people? Check The Hub for programs; hire young people and teach them.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Gwen Redcliffe at 9:05 p.m.