



# 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, November 26th, 2024**

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

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

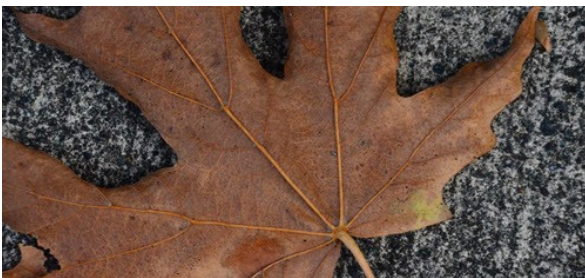
#### Activities:

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

### November Speaker:

#### Danielle Bellefleur on Planning and Caring for an Orchard

*See page 4 for details*



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### November Brag Table Theme:

#### *Fall Foliage*

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!



### 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.



# MBGC Christmas Potluck!

**Tuesday December 3rd, 2024**

This year's Christmas Potluck Dinner will be held on December 3rd at the Mill Bay Community League Hall. Our Master of Ceremonies this year will be Dustin Carlson. Doors open at 5:30 to allow time to set up your table and potluck item. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm. Bring your family, all are welcome!

## Details:

- Turkey, Ham (with mustard mousse!), Punch, Coffee, Tea — all provided courtesy of MBGC.
- Members provide potluck dishes: appies, salads, veggies, desserts, etc. (Please bring a generous serving of your potluck dish AND A SERVING SPOON so that all can enjoy a taste!)
- **Bring your own plates, cups, cutlery, napkins — (No alcohol please)**
- **A cash donation box for the food bank will be on hand, should anyone wish to donate - no food items please!**

## Fun Stuff:

- Table Centrepiece — theme is *"Bells and Boughs"*. Create an arrangement for your table (*candles cannot be lit*). Win one of three prizes!
- Raffle and Door Prizes — receive a FREE raffle ticket upon arrival. Prize number to be drawn sometime during the evening. Door prizes too!
- Gift Exchange — place an anonymous gift under the tree, get your number and be eligible to receive a gift. White Elephant Sale! Gifts are not to be purchased - regifting welcome!
- Word Jumble / Carol Singing — Dustin will present the ever popular word puzzle. We are in need of singers to help lead caroling at the Christmas Party, just a few carols to round out the event. Song sheets will be available.

## President's Report

Richard Nelson

### The Grateful Gardener

Gratitude is having a moment these days, perhaps partly because many of us have survived the pandemic and thank our lucky stars. I do like to start the day thinking about the many things there are to be grateful about. The gardening life and this Garden Club rank high on my gratefulness list. There is much in gardening that soothes the soul.

The draw of the garden to get out in the weather and see what is going on can really kick start the day in an invigorating way and a warm kitchen is so welcoming after a brisk excursion in the autumn mist. The camaraderie of the garden club is infectious whether sharing garden knowledge, advice and ideas over a cup of tea or getting dirt under the fingernails in a work party. Gardening seems to bring out the best in people.

Being in touch with the seasonal changes is emphasized through the garden. That touch

of melancholy that can accompany autumn is tempered by witnessing the strategies of plants and animals to ensure surviving and thriving into the future. The Garden Club moves through the seasons with celebration of bounty late in summer into the fall. We gather to celebrate Christmas (or Solstice) in an annual feast of food and joy. The speaker series deepens our knowledge and renews our enthusiasm for our garden pursuits. The perfect time to divide, transplant and sow seed of many plants is in the fall. This is also the time extend our connections with our fellow gardeners.

If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind? Then Dandelions will announce the verdant surge of another growing season with their full sun faces. We will dive into the garden with fresh zeal to grow and share and blossom together.

In gratitude for everyone's contributions to our Club,

Richard

### November 26, 2024, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda

- 1) 7:00 p.m.: Call to Order
  - a) Approval of the agenda
  - b) Approval of the minutes of September 24, 2024 Club general meeting
  - c) President's Report – Richard Nelson
  - d) Executive Committee reports
  - e) Brag Table
  - f) Garden-related Questions with our Master Gardeners
- 2) 8:00 p.m. Speaker: **Danielle Bellefleur : Orchard Design and Management**
  - h) Adjournment

## November's Speaker (Tuesday, November 26):

### Danielle Bellefleur on Orchard Design & Management

MBGC member Danielle will speak on planning an orchard and caring for fruit trees.

Bio:

Danielle Bellefleur is the owner of Fruit Forest Farm in Cobble Hill, where she grows 34 varieties of apples, plus cherries, plums, figs, peaches, quince, and an assortment of berries. Previously Danielle worked for Parks Canada where she worked as a Biologist and Park Warden in the Maritimes, Rocky Mountains, and here in Pacific Rim and Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

## Executive Members

### President

Richard Nelson

### Vice President

Kathy Code

### Treasurer

Gord Hamilton

### Secretary

Carol Goodger-Hill

### Past-President

Gill Keir

## Committee Reports

### Notes from the Library

Thank you to all who returned their library books. Please remember to bring your books back to our monthly meetings and cross off your name in the book. Then browse our selection and find something new!

Yours in reading,

*Katherine Miller*

*Club Librarian*

### Membership

Thank you for those who have already paid for their membership to the 2024-2025 year. For those that have not, a reminder that we have a \$20 membership fee, which is now past due.

Not sure what your membership fees go toward? They are used for things like renting the hall, helping our speakers with their costs to come to us, scholarships to name a few.

Looking forward to meeting you at the membership table!

*Robin*

## Committee Leads

### Membership

Robin Reid

### Flower & Garden Show

Janice Rose

### Library

Katherine Miller

### Kitchen

Judy Raimondo

### Plant Sales

Carrie Nelson

### Bursary

Ann Baty

*Cont'd next page...*

## Committee Reports (continued)

### 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



### Gardening Tips for Nov-Dec 2024

by Barb Kohlman

Hi all cold weather has probably got us all inside perusing gardening books and planning next year's plantings. Which is/could be a good thing to be doing now.

BUT-----

Planting: Put in new trees and shrubs, and bulbs for spring flowers.

Clean up: Remove broken limbs and clean up downed plant material.

Mulching: Surround trees and shrubs with a layer of mulch to help keep rodents away.

Spend some time in your garden harvesting winter greens, berries, pinecones, grasses, and other seasonal cuttings for winter displays.

Ideally, you set out bird feeders earlier in fall. By December, it's time to check them to make sure they are clean and full of seed. You should clean bird feeders roughly every two weeks to prevent buildup of bird droppings and other contaminants that can make birds sick. To clean bird feeders, remove any remaining bird seed and clean the feeder with soap and warm water. It's also a good idea to disinfect feeders with vinegar or an all-natural spray.

Make sure your hummingbird feeders are brought in at night if frost is predicted and put them out first thing in the morning.

Try Your Hand at Plant Propagation. Plant propagation isn't as difficult as it sounds, ...

Late fall and early winter are good times to prepare soil because many of the annuals and perennials have either been removed or have died back. This means you can more easily access soil around plants. Adding 2 to 4 inches of compost this time of year also provides ample time for the nutrients to begin to work their way into existing soil before you begin planting in spring. Use organic compost from your compost bin or a local nursery.

Store all your tools after cleaning and oiling wooden handles.

Store tender plants or any in pots that may suffer from the cold in an unheated garage or greenhouse or under the eaves near the house wall.

And dream of how your garden will look in spring!!!!!!!

Cheers Barb Kohlman

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### Committee Leads (cont'd)

**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)

**Facebook/Social Media**

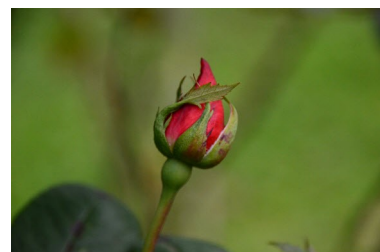
Yvonne Amos

[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)

Yvonne Amos

Facebook Coordinator



## PROPAGATION in the LATE FALL/WINTER for the MBGC & for your own enjoyment

If you've put your garden to bed & you're ready to put your feet up during the dark and dreary "dead zone," enjoy! However, if you can only tolerate having your feet up for so long, you might try propagating a few plants for the fun of it. Starting seeds or taking a few hardwood cuttings of a favourite tree can be rewarding. Hardy perennials, divided & potted up this time of year, will survive outside under an eave or in an unheated greenhouse, watering minimally. Some of these plants will be nicely developed in time for donating to the MBGC spring PLANT SALE or planting out.

Check out the plant list sent out in the Sept. newsletter as well as this late Fall/Winter list for ideas.

For more detailed info on specific plants re: techniques, soil, etc. go on-line or borrow "*How to Propagate*," by John Cushnie, 2006, available from the MBGC library or VIRL (2006 & 2009 editions).

KEY ----- SW = softwood, HW = hardwood, F = Fall, W = Winter

<b>Plant Name</b>	<b>Propagation method in late fall or WINTER</b>
<i>Arisarum probosideum</i>	(mouse plant) – division in W
<i>Astilbe chinensis</i>	Division in W
<i>Bergenia</i>	Division in W
<i>Brunnera</i>	Divide lg clumps or take root cuttings in early W from outer edge of clumps
<i>Bog rosemary</i>	Pot up rooted suckers & leave outside
<i>Camellia</i>	Semi-ripe cuttings late F, W with bottom heat
<i>Clematis armandii</i>	Evergreen clematis, semi-ripe cuttings in late F, early winter, bottom heat
<i>Dracunculus vulgaris</i>	Separate offsets, replant right away in late F or W
<i>Echinacea</i>	Divide in W, avoid disturbing the roots
<b>FRUITS...</b>	Divide and replant or pot up: rhubarb, strawberries or cane fruits in early W. Blueberries & cane fruits: 6' HW cuttings of 1 yr old wood in W, in grnhs
<i>Garlic</i>	It's not too late if you can work the soil!
<i>Heuchera</i>	Divide in W
<i>Hosta</i>	Never to late or too early to divide.... 3 buds to a pot make for a good sale!
<i>Magnolia – evergreen</i>	Semi-ripe cuttings in Winter, with or without bottom heat in greenhouse.
<i>Nerine bowdenii</i>	Divide after blooming in F. Keep nose of bulb @ soil level.
<i>Rheum palmatum</i>	Divide late Fall or early Winter. Dig deep to avoid damaging roots.
<i>Rudbeckia</i>	Divide late Fall.
<b>SHRUBS</b> using HW cuttings in winter	Buddleia, Callistemon (bottle brush), Deutzia, Forsythia, Franklinia alatamaha, Cornus, Hydrangea, Philadelphus, Ribes sp., Roses, Sambucus sp., Weigela.
<i>Sorbaria sems</i>	False Spirea. Dig up rooted suckers. Cut to 30 cm. 1 – 3 stems per pot.
<b>LAYERING</b> in late Fall/early winter	Calycanthus floridus, Stewartia, Magnolias, Rhodos, Azaleas, Forsythia, Potentilla, Enkianthus, weeping Japanese Maples, weeping Katsura, Hairy Manzanita (difficult to transplant), Cranberry, most vines (wisteria, honeysuckle, trumpet, clematis using serpentine method). Usually a yr is needed to est. roots.
<b>SEEDS</b>	Rosemary, Lavender, Dianthus, Pentstemon, Monarda, Skimmia, Meconopsis, Mondo grass, Tulip species, Ferns, snapdragons, nasturtium, lilies. Sow seed in shallow trays in Fall/Winter in a greenhouse or garden frame, seeds will germinate in the Spring. Grow on for a yr.
<i>Veggie &amp; annual seeds</i>	Check out " <i>West Coast Seeds</i> " catalogue for more seeds to start in winter.
<i>TREE SEEDS- check to see if they need stratifying...etc.</i>	Cornus, Stewartia, Styrax, J. Maples, Evergreens, Staphylea pinnata, in shallow pots, in cool greenhs/garden frame, keep moist.



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

7:00 pm, October 22, 2024

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

Richard added an item to the agenda. Dustin will speak about the Christmas Party. Fran Benton moved acceptance of the amended Agenda. Seconded by Randy Thompson. Passed.

Gill noted a correction to the minutes of September 21, 2024. In line 6, 2026 should be corrected to 2025. Gwen Redcliffe moved acceptance of the corrected minutes; seconded by Kate Roberts. Passed.

Vice President Kathy Code has lined up a number of speakers for our future meetings.

Treasurer: Gord Hamilton reported that our chequing account has \$3000.00; our bursary account has \$2500.00 and money has been set aside for the Flower and Garden show. We are in good shape.

Membership: Robin introduced three new members who joined tonight.

Memorial Garden: Heather thanked those who came to help clean up the garden. There will be another work session this Saturday so please come if you can. Work sessions will be held monthly. We are getting \$500.00 off our room rent because we are taking care of the garden.

Facebook: Yvonne is not here tonight but Richard reported that Yvonne has been working on our Facebook page. It is current. Be sure to look at the Facebook page and send any comments to Yvonne.

Library: Heather is covering for Katherine. Please sign out any books you wish to borrow and remember to cross off your name when you return the book.

Plant Sales: Kathleen thanked those who brought contributions tonight.

Kitchen: There are lots of goodies tonight. Judy thanked those who contributed and said we have lots of volunteers for November and January so she will not send round the signup sheet tonight.

Brag Table: Fran and Dustin had a competition on who could grow the largest pumpkin. Dustin brought in two huge pumpkins- one with a green side and the other one yellow. Fran grew hers on a trellis. It is rather warty and it fell off the trellis. There were several other squashes on the table-- a patty pan which is delicious when cooked on the BBQ and two tiny white ones. Squashes are rather promiscuous. If you grow them you will never be sure what sort of squash the seeds will produce.

There were also two vases of mixed flowers (daphne, anemone, holly hock, snap dragon, dahlia, etc.) and one vase of yellow flowering helianthus tuberosus (Jerusalem artichoke).

Questions for Master Gardeners:

How far should you cut down peonies in the fall? Take them down to the ground unless you have a hybrid which is woody. Then you don't touch them

*minutes continued from previous page*

What causes powdery mildew on pumpkins? It is probably caused by drought.

How can you get a hardy hibiscus to bloom? They bloom late but feed it and it will probably bloom.

When do you prune Rose of Sharon? Prune woody plants in February.

Dustin reminded us the Christmas Party will be on December 3 starting at 5 PM with dinner at 6 PM.

There will be a gift exchange but please do not buy anything. A clip board is going around for volunteers to sign up to bring food.

The meeting broke for refreshment at 7:28 PM and reconvened at 7:52PM.

The raffle table tonight had three ceramic objects, a book, a flower pot and a beautiful pot of plants. All gifts were donated.

Kathy Code introduced Bernie Juurlink who is a retired academic with a background in the medical sciences. He spoke on Bats in South Cowichan. He started a bat acoustic survey in 2021 when he got an echometer that has associated software that attempts to identify the bats. He also has a Chorus and a Pettersson D500x that has no associated software. He looks at the wave files and with some of them can make an ID. These machines made him very interested in bats. He has used the machines in the gardens of many club members to identify what types of bats are living there. Bats are the only mammals that can fly. They have a membrane between their individual fingers and between their back legs and tail which allows them to be air borne. Young bats are ready to fly at the age of 6 weeks. They also have unique hearing because they can interpret the echo they hear. This is called echo location.

Bats have been around for 50 million years. Some of them are colourful and beautiful. They are the second largest order of placental mammals. Most are very long lived. Most are insectivores (981 species in Canada). Others are fruit eaters (166 species world wide), nectar eaters (48 species), carnivores (17 species) and there are 3 species of blood drinkers. B.C. bats are all insectivores. They eat 100% of their body weight in insects every night. They play a very important role in agriculture and they also eat disease carrying insects such as mosquitoes. Bats roost in tree hollows, caves, rock crevices and under bark. Some species have particular places they prefer to roost. Current forestry practices are very disruptive to bats and can have a negative impact. Some species hibernate for the winter in tight colonies; others migrate south.

Echolocation: Bats emit a high frequency sound, wait for the echo and then are able to interpret from the echo the location of prey. They navigate in the dark by means of echolocation. They also have a social call which is different from their hunting call.

Bats in Eastern North America have been the victims of white nose syndrome which is caused by a fungus that grows on their nose and wings. This results in increased metabolism and they starve to death. Up to 90% of the bat population in parts of eastern North America have died because of this. It has not been detected yet in B.C. perhaps because of an antifungal bacteria which is found here.

Rabies is carried by bats in their saliva. The first case of a death caused by bat rabies since 1965 happened this year. It is very rare but if you have an encounter with a bat see a physician and get vaccinated. The vaccine now is similar to the flu vaccine.

Bats need to be cherished for what they are.

Robin Reid moved adjournment at 8:52 PM.