



# MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

## Next Meeting:

**Date:** Tues, February 28, 2017

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

Mill Bay Community League  
Hall (1091 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd)

**Activities:**

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



## Brag Table Theme:

### February Frozen Freakout!

Given our crazy weather this month, we have a crazy theme for the Brag Table. So freakout and go wild with your imagination to share

you were experiencing in February. As always, Barb Kohlman will provide commentary on the contributions received, and one recipient will be randomly chosen to receive a prize.

## February Speaker:

**Tony Irwin**

*"Key Hole Gardens"*

## Where to find:

- Guest speaker details p. 2
- Committee Reports p. 3-5
- p. 5
- January Mtg Minutes p. 6-7
- Upcoming Events p. 8-11

## Kitchen Duties:

*Mary Ellen Deuling*

**Kitchen Helpers:** Deb Tustin; Gill Keir

**2% Milk:**

**Goodies:**

Betty Underwood; Deb  
Tustin; Dot Garbet

**Setup/Cleanup:**

Al & Wendy Mikalishen;  
Kevin Kersten



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

## February's Guest Speaker

This month's speaker is Tony Irwin who will give a talk on:

### "Key Hole Gardens"

From Tony:

*"The 2015 Cowichan Exhibition's theme was Blue Water, Liquid Gold, emphasizing the importance of water and its worth to food production. I had been elected president of the exhibition for 2015 and was looking for something tied to the theme that would show the careful use of water. I discovered the concept of Keyhole Gardening while visiting a fair in a drought plagued area. It was decided that building a Key Hole Garden for the 2015 fair would be a good way to show one concept of water conservation. I am now happy to share what I have learned, after two years of experimenting, with the exhibition's own version of a Key Hole Garden."*



Mary Vandenberg



The MBGC extends a warm welcome to

**June MacDonald**  
**Romy Pritchard**

who joined our club during January's meeting.

JoAnn Mulhern

### \*\* NEWSLETTER \*\*

Just a reminder that I am working with the Membership Lead, JoAnn Mulhern, to determine who are our unpaid members, and removing those email addresses from our Newsletter distribution list. This is only meant to be a gentle nudge to remind you to pay your annual fee.

The fee is only \$10 and applies for the gardening year September to June. This fee goes toward running the club, paying for guest speakers, and contributing to the donation to local charities at the end of the year.

Thank you,  
Cori-Lee Fisher



### 2017 Community Flower & Garden Show Report

Planning is well under way for the 70th Community Flower & Garden Show. The theme is "Celebrating 70 Years". We have volunteers for all subcommittees but one. We are still looking for a volunteer who will look after the signage that is placed near roads for advertising the Show. If you are interested in volunteering please contact me.

Bernie Juurink

### Plant Sales Table Report



Many thanks to all who donated plants and fruits to January's plant sale table. Not sure what you might have for donations to the sale table this month, but please bring anything you think might be of interest to garden members!

Monika Morgan :)

### Raffle Report



Great participation at January's meeting. Lots of tickets sold, 3 for \$1. Donations made from club members for future raffle table draws. Prizes were a combination of donations from club members and purchased items - new and gently used. Thank you club members for your donations. With Bobbie away, Mary Vandenberg kindly helped with the draws this month.

Janet Abbott





## Library Report

I had a blast at the gardening conference, "Mixing It Up in the Urban Garden" in Sidney at the end of January. I came home with 7 new books for our collection! Please come and check them out at our meeting. The topics are varied and should be of interest to so many of you.

Please remember to return books from our last meeting so others may have an opportunity to read them.

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

Pauline Ducek  
Facebook Coordinator



## Gardening Tips

by

Barb Kohlman



Watch this space for Gardening Tips in March's Newsletter !

### **Cooks and Norfolks – when pines don't look like pines**

If you have houseplants chances are good that you have a super hardy Norfolk Island pine. These wonderful trees can sit in our cold gloomy rooms and thrive. In fact you can forget to water them and they will show their displeasure by dumping a small branch or two. If you encourage a Norfolk, you will have a massive tree in your house and have to do some pruning. As we all know, pruning houseplants can go very badly. I pruned my poor mother's jade plant into terminal submission. She was not pleased with me!

Norfolk pines are commonly for sale in grocery stores and garden centres, usually in the houseplant section because they are not cold hardy in our climate. They are often sold in clusters of saplings all potted in the same pot. Those poor saplings fight it out with each other and no one thrives. Be kind and prune out the other saplings and let one be dominant.

Are these actually pines? Yes they are in the pine family but are part of the ancient group Araucariaceae. Back in Jurassic times dinosaurs happily gnawed away for hours on these trees. This was a pity because both the dinosaurs and the most of these pines died out 64 million years ago in the massive Cretaceous extinction. Very few of that ancient species survived but those that did, spread out through tropical regions of the world. In 1995 in a remote valley in Australia a living fossil "Woolemia" was found. This newly discovered member of the Araucariaceae drove plant propagators wild with excitement and now you can purchase one at our local garden centre.



Norfolk Island Pines are not just from Norfolk Island but are common through the tropics. If you are lucky enough to go on a trip to the tropics you will likely meet the Cook Pine. It's a bit different looking than the Norfolk Island pine but still has the lovely ropy needles and an open almost lacy canopy that allows other plants and vines to grow through them. On the big island of Hawaii near Kona there is a cook pine that has Bougainvillea growing up through the whole tree. In full bloom this is spectacular!

*Fran Benton*

# Mill Bay Garden Club

## General Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2017

Scribe: Cliff Stainsby (in absence of Fran Benton, secretary)

Approval of minutes from Nov. 2016 mtg. M/S/C

### REPORTS:

#### President:

- gardeners from Qualicum would like to visit Gardens in our Valley
- Joan Cawker
  - in Cowichan Hospital
  - fractured her hip
  - would appreciate visitors
- Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday
  - March 11
  - need volunteers
- Thanks from the Cowichan Hospice Society for our donation

#### Vice President:

- no report

#### Treasurer:

- \$1,492 in the bank (oops – forgot the \$.37)
- correction - \$1,492.37 in the bank (whew, that feels much better, more prosperous)

#### Secretary:

- said something inane that couldn't be recorded
- no substantive report, quite discouraging for the whole club,
- fortunately the real secretary is due back next meeting

#### Newsletter:

- members are encourage to contribute to the newsletter

#### Website:

- website coordinator, Marie Cook, is asking members to send pictures for inclusion in the webpage

#### Membership:

- two new members attended the meeting.

#### Flower and Garden Show:

- had their first meeting a week prior
- need chairperson for Silent Auction sub committee
- need someone to organize publicity
- need someone to organize signs
- next mtg. Feb. 9

#### Library:

- the library has 5 new books

#### Plant Sales:

- lots of Bay and Rosemary

#### Raffle:

- 5 different prizes
- tickets on sale at coffee break

#### Kitchen:

- no report

#### Historian:

- sent cards to several people with ailments

*(cont'd next page)*

## Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2017 (cont'd)

### Past President:

- as usual, nothing useful

### Members' Forum:

- Sharon Jack from the Gordon Head Garden Club
  - they are sponsoring a talk by Brian Minter on March 6;
  - the theme is 'Celebrating New Trends'
  - 1:30pm
  - a poster about the event is in our Newsletter
- Lori Hamilton from the Duncan Family Research Centre:
  - works as a volunteer for the centre
  - pointed out that many people who are curious about their ancestry are also gardeners, and are welcome to drop into the centre
- Dustin Carlson
  - is moving and needs a new place for his garden, he is seeking ideas about just where that place could be

### Brag Table:

- Barb Kohlman did her usual superb job at presenting the material on the table

### Q&A:

- an elderly Englishman stood before the assembled and enlightened us on several gardening matters, appeared to be well received

### Guest speaker – DeLisa Lewis, PhD

- a very well informed speaker, I would say an "expert" but the term seems pejorative in this day and age
- she gave an excellent presentation about soils and was rewarded with both many questions and much applause.

Meeting adjourned ~9pm



## Upcoming Events

*Calling all gardening enthusiasts*

Come and hear Brian Minter

### *"Celebrating New Trends in Gardening"*

**Monday March 6, 2017**

**1:30 pm - \$20.00**

**Salvation Army Citadel**

**4030 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC V8X 5J6**

**Hosted by the Gordon Head Garden Club**

Tickets can be purchased from

**Dig This, Garden Works**

or by contacting

**Sharon Jack at**

**250-708-0713**


or **Delcie McLellan**

**250-370-0389**





## Upcoming Events, cont'd



### Cobble Hill's 17th annual Seedy Saturday

Celebrate our '100 Mile Spring  
organic & heritage seeds  
plant starts for food & flowers  
bulbs & tubers, figs & ferns  
mason bees & their houses  
garden tools & gardeners' bodycare  
permaculture & master gardeners  
seed exchange & kiddies' plant fun  
inspiration & authenticity!

**Saturday 11th March from 10 am to 2 pm**

Cobble Hill Hall, 3550 Watson Avenue,  
in the heart of Cobble Hill Village

FREE entry for all • good food by the Womens' Institute  
presented by the Shawston Cobble Hill Farmers' Institute  
find us on Facebook "Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday"  
wheelchair accessible • lots of parking

## Upcoming Events, cont'd

### MORE SEEDY SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND - 2017

Harbour Living has very conveniently listed all the Seedy Saturday events on Vancouver Island for 2017. Click on link below to find out dates and locations:

<http://www.harbourliving.ca/VancouverIslandSeedySaturdays.php>

### Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society Annual Spring Show March 17 & 18



*Primula marginata*

**Cadboro Bay United Church**  
2625 Arbutus Road  
Victoria BC

Enjoy the fabulous exhibits , displays,  
door prizes, raffle, silent auction,  
commercial plant sales, and tea.

**Friday** 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
**Saturday** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**2017 Special Display Feature:**  
**'Sempervivum Spectacular!'**

**Admission by donation**  
**Plant sale by Club members Saturday 11:00 am**

Visit our website at [www.virags.ca](http://www.virags.ca) or find us on Facebook @ Vancouver  
Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society

## Upcoming Events, cont'd

**WE'RE BACK**

Vancouver  
Island  
Heather  
Society

**HEATHER SALE**

**MARCH 25TH, 2017**

*Cash or Cheque Only*

COBBLE HILL FARMERS INSTITUTE  
3550 Watson Avenue, Cobble Hill BC

10:00-12:00

(or until sold out)

Unusual varieties for 2017 will include winter bloomers, summer bloomers, spring tips and starter kits.

For detailed information:  
[www.bcheathersociety.org](http://www.bcheathersociety.org)

### **MILL BAY PLANTAHOLICS PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2017**  
**9am to 2pm**  
**2836 Oceanside Lane**  
**Mill Bay**

**Directions:** east off Trans Canada Highway at Kilmalu, south on Church Way, east on Welch Road and south on Oceanside Lane

Proceeds from the sale will be divided between the Malawi Girls on the Move program (where the money will provide a scholarship for a young Malawian woman to complete her secondary school education) and Somenos Transition House - a program of the Cowichan Women Against Violence Society.

A great selection of healthy plants will be available for purchase. Members of the Victoria Master Gardener Association will be on hand to answer your gardening questions. Cash or cheque only.

Contact Elaine Scott at [TheScottRogers@aol.com](mailto:TheScottRogers@aol.com) for more information.

