



# MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.millbaygardenclub.com](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com) Email: [mbgnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mbgnewsletter@gmail.com)

**APRIL 2017**

## Next Meeting:

**Date:** Tues, April 25, 2017

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

**Place:** Mill Bay Community League  
Hall

(1001 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd)

### Activities:

Forum, Gardening Q&A;

Library; Raffle; Plant Sales;

Guest Speaker; Socializing!



## April Brag Table Theme:

### POPPING OUT OF THE GLOOM

What's happening in your garden? Bring something to the Brag Table to share. Barb Kohlman will provide commentary on the contributions received. One recipient will be randomly chosen to receive a prize.

## APRIL SPEAKER:

**Barrie Agar**

**Shape and Form**

## April Kitchen Duties:

**Mary-Ellen Deuling**

**Kitchen Helpers:** Deb Tustin

Judy Raemondo

**1 litre of 2% Milk:** Linda Nelson

**Cookies/Snacks:** Pam Jamieson,

Deb Tustin,

Marge Martin

**Setup/Cleanup:** Dianne Regan

Ajay Oppelaar

### Where to find:

- Pip's important message p. 2
- Guest speaker info p. 3
- Committee Reports p. 3-4
- Gardening Tips p. 5
- Fran Benton's Article p. 6
- March's Hilarious Minutes p. 7-8
- Upcoming Events p. 9-11



**DON'T FORGET!**

**Bring your mug for the Break!**



## **Call For Members To Fill Executive Positions.**

**PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, RAFFLE ,  
WEBSITE ,  
GARDEN SHOW CO-ORDINATOR.**

Tradition, not politics, is what The Mill Bay Garden Club runs on. Tradition plus the joy of gardening and a quirky sense of humour keeps the Club a wonderful one to be a member of!

To keep the Club lively we need to have a regular fertilizing, with new plants to mix in with those who know how things are done.

I became President 2 years ago never having been on the Executive before and I have enjoyed the position enormously. The members of the Executive are a great group of knowledgeable people to work with and all the members of the Club are a delight to interact with. No position is onerous as everyone who has an area of responsibility carries out their duties efficiently so I have not had too much to worry about. There is such a joyful camaraderie and like a well tended garden we all flourish where we are planted.

As you can see we are looking for 5 positions to be filled for the coming year. Please consider them carefully and if you are interested please speak to a member of the Executive at the coming meeting or alternative methods may be used .....

**PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, RAFFLE ,  
WEBSITE ,  
GARDEN SHOW CO-ORDINATOR.**



## April Guest Speaker



We are really pleased to have Barrie Agar as our speaker this month. She is always fun to listen to, an excellent speaker! Her topic is **"Plant Combinations in Color, Shape and Form."**

Here is what Barrie had to share about herself:

I started my horticultural career in Ireland in a market garden on an old estate. I did my initial training there before returning to Canada, where I worked in several specialist nurseries, including conifers, and old roses. I taught in the Horticulture Technician program at VIU, and am currently Head Gardener at Royal Roads. I also belong to the Cowichan Rhododendron Society and the Fruit Testers of BC.

Mary Vandenberg

The MBGC extends a warm welcome to four new members:



**Sandy Ballard**

**Dinah Clark**

**Bonnie Scott**

**Lynne van der Have**

We hope to see you at the April 25th meeting.

JoAnn Mulhern

## 2017 Community Flower & Garden Show Report

The organization of the Community Garden and Flower Show is well underway. We are looking forward to receiving your donations for the Silent Auction and hope that all of you will have entries in the Show.

Bernie Juurlink



## Plant Sales Table Report

The weather is more favorable for potting up, so bring along your extras for the plant table if you have some.

Also, if you have extra one gallon pots you want to get rid of, we would be happy to accept them at the plant table. The Cairnsmore garden volunteers are always looking for more. (but don't give away the ones you need:)

If you're looking for more snow drops, we should have quite a few at the next meeting. These are donated by Janette Lorimer (off Kingburne Dr). If you are willing to venture to her place, you may dig up all you want & put a little donation in to the plant sales. To make arrangements contact Janette Monika Morgan & Sharon Martin

(or Heather Jenkins in Monika's absence)



## Library Report

### NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

Come and browse through the latest edition of "Fine Gardening" at our next meeting. Enjoy the section on the best new plants for 2017 and an article on the art of watering plants.

Remember to return the books you have borrowed so that others may enjoy them.

Your friendly Librarian,  
Janice Rose



NO MORE  
RAFFLE  
TICKETS

## February Raffle Report

NO MORE  
RAFFLE  
TICKETS

### Donated by club members

- For a set of floral cups thanks goes to Norman Redcliffe
- Original painting of Iris was donated by member Diane McNair, a nice reminder of Diane since she has moved up Island

### Found Items

- Quality Peugeot Pepper Grinder and Salt Shaker
- Nice copy of Garden Hints and record keeping hard cover book

### Enrico Winery

- donated a bottle of Red Dragon wine

We did very well with ticket sales in the month of March. Janet and I thank you all

Bobbie Burns & Janet Abbott

## MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE

MAY 27, 2017

9am - 2pm

### AT THE COMMUNITY FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

Your plant sale committee would like to encourage you to think about what plants you are going to donate to the plant sale, pot them up, label them and make sure that they look great. As you know, the money that the Club makes from the plant sale helps to support our contributions to projects ongoing in our Community. Our club is very community minded and the sale is important to us.

This year we are hoping that we get loads of plants for the sale. We kindly ask you to refrain from donating invasive plants. Sometimes you may not realize that your plants are invasive. The Committee will help you out and remove any plants from the sale that it considers to be invasive.

The plants should be delivered to Elaine Scott's home prior to the sale. The Committee will be organizing the plants on May 26 so we will need them a couple of days before then. The notice in the May newsletter will provide you with information on where and when they should be delivered.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Elaine Scott

Thank you one  
and all.



## 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.

## Gardening Tips for April





## A Few Thoughts on Cactus

I have been lucky enough to be able to spend some quality botanical time two winters ago in Tucson Arizona. Sometimes I find it hard to get my head around the enormous difference between our Cowichan environment and the desert. Although Cowichan means warmland, warm has a whole new meaning in a desert! Plants that love our wet and mild climate would implode in the searing heat and skin cracking dryness of Arizona.

Do we really have nothing in common? Hey, I think not! We have our very own native prickly pear cactus in the gulf islands. Many gardeners are able to find appropriate dry spots in their gardens for lots of other kinds of cactus too. Many cacti are able to stand periods of cold, and some are even adapted to handle rainy winters.

In Tucson the most common cactus are Barrels, Saguaros, and Chollas. These plants are like our cedars and firs in that they live everywhere. It's not uncommon to have a saguaro growing beside a gas station or a bunch of chollas in the city ditches. The saguaros get to be quite old – often over 150 years. When they die they leave an interesting collection of sticks. These were the water and nutrient carriers in the center of the cactus. The dried up body of the dead cactus often falls around the base like a dropped pair of trousers. Seeing a dead saguaro always makes me sad.

For a bit of entertainment one day I went into a garden centre to see what they offered. Oh so expensive and such limited variety. We are so lucky to have the diversity and wealth of inexpensive plants in our garden centers at home! This did not stop me from picking up some interesting seeds and collecting some garden ideas for planters.

One I really like because it's an upcycling project, is the broken cactus pot garden. Basically you go to the garden center and buy a big decorative plant pot with the side broken out. Don't bother asking for it for free as most merchants will not give these away. Find a nice one and dicker away. Take the pot and fill it with high drainage mix topped with at least an inch of attractive gravel. Pop your cactus and succulents into the pot and use broken pieces to make terraces to hold in the moisture. Enjoy your new project!



Fran Benton

# Mill Bay Garden Club

## General Meeting Minutes March 28, 2017

### Mill Bay Garden Club

Minutes: March 28, 2017 General Mtg.

**BE WARNED:** DO NOT READ anything in this report that appears in *italics*, your mental health may be compromised as the *italic material seems to be the product of a virus, something twisted anyway.* - Ha! Too late.

**Convened:** 7:00pm precisely (well, + or - a couple of seconds, no more)

Approval of minutes from Feb. 28, 2017 mtg: M/S/C

#### **Reports:**

##### **President:**

- Thanks to those who staffed our table at the Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday (*very arduous work, that!*)
- arrangements made for the distribution of the new, and highly appreciated, bookmarks
- AGM:
  - we still need people to step forward for the positions of President, Vice President, Raffle Coordinator, Web Page Coordinator, and Community Flower and Garden Show Coordinator; and please don't be intimidated at the prospect of becoming a 'coordinator', '*chummy*' is acceptable.
- Information about the View Royal Garden Spring Show was distributed,

##### **Vice President:**

- no report - unusual, the VP generally gives such lengthy reports

##### **Treasurer:**

- \$1,314.26 in the bank
- \$1,000 of that allocated for bursary

##### **Secretary:**

- incomprehensible, no idea what the point was
- general comments at the coffee break - surely our club can get a better fill in for the regular Secretary

##### **Newsletter:**

- once again general and well deserved applause for the Newsletter Coordinator - Cori-Lee Fisher
- *Flash - sorry to interrupt but Ray Brown sure can play Bass, wow if I have music on whilst attendin two folks on teh newsletter noote, tyfoh giong!*

##### **Membership:**

- 4 new members attended the meeting
- *that is a 100% increase over the Jan. Meeting, need a new Hall soon - just saying*

##### **Flower and Garden Show:**

- looking for donations to the Silent Auction
- looking for more vendors
- the Show is on Sat, May 27,
- take entries to the Hall on Friday,
- judging on Friday night
- *Gernsch might be there*

##### **Library & bursary:**

- no info about the bursary yet
- books on judging standards used at the Flower and Garden Show are available for borrowing - *the librarian says that these volumes are crying out for attention.*

##### **Plant Sales:**

- asks members to help out with Plants to sell

##### **Raffle:**

- a number of exciting prizes
- tickets on sale at coffee break

##### **Kitchen:**

- there is a shortage of stacks for the break
- *why does bad news always come from the back of the room?*

##### **Historian:**

- sent a get well card to Arlene
- stories about meetings in Mar. 1986 and Mar. 1988, *something about how the Club was made up of real gardeners back then, gardeners who actually got their rhododendrons to bloom, just jealous - that's all*



## MILL BAY PLANTAHOLICS PLANT SALE

The Mill Bay Plantaholics (Barb Kohlman, Sharon Martin, Ali Morris, Noreen Carver and Elaine Scott) would like to thank all of the Garden Club members who helped us set up prior to the sale, worked during the sale and who came and bought plants at the sale. In addition, a **great big thank-you to Cori-Lee Fisher who advertised the sale in the newsletter and sent a reminder to members ; to Pauline Dueck who put the sale on the Mill Bay Garden Club Facebook Page; and to Marie Cooke who put the information on our Web Site.**

**The turn out was wonderful** and we made \$2650. This money will be divided between the two charities - Malawi Girls on the Move and the Somenos Transition Home.

**Thank you one and all.**



**Cairnsmore Place  
Volunteer Gardeners' Plant Sale  
250 Cairnsmore Street, Duncan  
Saturday, April 22, 2017  
9am to Noon**

The Volunteer Gardeners at Cairnsmore Place in Duncan will be holding their annual plant sale. There will be hundreds of plants ready for planting. You will also find garden signs, arbours, planters, pot trivets and faerie doors made by members of the group.

The group is made up of 16 volunteers who work half a day a week from Spring to Fall. The gardens are enjoyed by residents, families and staff year round.

There is no Island Health budget for this work, so money is raised through donations and the plant sale. These funds pay for fertilizer, mulching, new plants and new projects. This work can only be done with the support of the Cowichan Valley's gardening community.

Thank you.



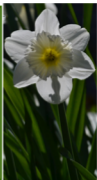


## Don't forget the Birds and the Bees!

We are collecting any garden items that you wish to donate to the **St. Aidan's United Church Garden Sale** happening on **May 6**. Besides seedlings and plants, we are asking for donations of pots, planters, garden tools and garden decorations that you are no longer using.

And we aren't forgetting our flying garden friends – bee or bird houses and feeders are also wanted. Bring your smaller items to the MBGC April meeting or contact **Ann Baty** to arrange for a pick up.

All proceeds from the sale will go to the continued support of Shelbourne Community Kitchen (SCK). The SCK assists low income people to have food security by learning together in a shared community. Below is a link for their new promotional video if you would like to learn about this worthy cause. Thank you.



## SOUTH AFRICA TOUR



Bill (Dumont) has put together his 2017 Garden Tour - this year to South Africa.

Dates are: **September 13 to October 4, 2017 (21 nights/22 days)**

To see spectacular photos and get full details please visit:

<http://southafricatour2017.com/>

<https://goo.gl/Wa6yXy>

Click ENTER near bottom right of website for day-by-day schedule, contact and price information.



## COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE

St. John's Church Hall, 486 Jubilee Street, Duncan  
(corner of Jubilee & First Streets)



COMMERCIAL: Colleen Walsh - 250-247-0300 - Christine MacDonald - 250-432-2747 - www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com



## **Exciting news from Erikson's Daylily Gardens And Perennials!**

**We are happy to announce that we are expanding both our hours and products!**

**While we open for the season on March 25th this year, instead of being open weekends only, we will now be open FIVE days a week - Wednesday to Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm.**

**In addition, later in the season, we will be offering a large line of unique wood products, both for home and garden; and gardening seminars to cover many topics!**

**Keep in touch with our changes by joining our Facebook page, or by checking out our website at [www.eriksonsdaililygardens.com](http://www.eriksonsdaililygardens.com)**

**We look forward to seeing many more people visit us this year to see what is new!**

**24642 - 51 Ave Langley BC (604)856-5758**