



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, October 24th**

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

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

Activities:

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



2017

October Speaker:

Ann Hoelzer (Gaia College)

**The Essence of Organic
Gardening**

See page 3 for details

October Brag Table Theme:

Put it in a Pumpkin

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!

**Annual Membership Fee
is due!**

\$10 per person!

**Order a permanent
name tag for yourself!**

*See the "Membership" report on page 3
for more details*

Kitchen Duties:

1 litre of 2% milk: *Norman and Gwen Redcliffe*

Cookies/Snacks: *Dorothy Kennedy, Kim deBree,
Mary-Ellen Deuling*

Kitchen Helpers: *Jill Jones, Gill Keir, Celine E.*

Set-up/clean up: *Club members*

**Please email me if you cannot make the
meeting.**

**DON'T FORGET to
bring your mug for
coffee/tea!**



dreamstime.com

President's Report

Ajay Oppelaar

I would like to welcome the new members who joined our group last month. And (no pressure), we are accepting nominations for next year's executive committee already. Please feel free to put your name in the hat for a position or nominate someone you think might not have the nerve to decline.

This month's executive and committee meeting was its usual laugh fest, even minus chief instigator and Librarian extraordinaire Janice Rose and several others. Business and the mood were light.

One topic discussed was moderating the Q and A session so that all are able to hear questions and answers clearly. We ask that you keep your question short and clear so that whoever is moderating will be able to relay the question by repeating it clearly from the front of the room. Answers will then be given, again, from the front of the room. Without bull horns and soup cans on strings, this is as good as it gets. Also, if you cannot hear the moderator, please speak up and let them know that they need to be projecting more. We do have a sound system we could incorporate if the need is there.

We had two members put their names on the sign-up sheet for the Millennium garden committee and still need a couple names to be added to the list so that it's not a committee of two. Once again I'll be distributing a sign-up sheet at the meeting next week and we need several more people to step up so we can form that group.

Part of our regular meetings is the member's forum, where you may have a few minutes of the meeting to promote garden related events or projects. If you would like a bit of time on the agenda, either email me prior to the regular monthly meeting or ask me in person before the start of a meeting. If you would prefer to not speak yourself but have something to add, talk to me and I can relay the information.

Hope to see you all next Tuesday night. If you haven't yet renewed your membership for the year, please remember to bring \$10 cash to the meeting so JoAnn can update our list. Also, ordering a name badge is a good idea, \$10 for pin closure, \$11 for magnetic backing.

Ajay Oppelaar



October's Speaker



Ann Hoelzer **"The Essence of Organic Gardening"**

Ann is a certified Horticulturist from Germany. She came to Canada via the International Agriculture Exchange Association to work in the agricultural field. She decided to stay and keep working in the dairy industry, and opened up a small landscaping business on the side. This quickly turned into a small greenhouse operation specializing in bio-dynamic heritage vegetable seedlings. From there on she found work at the Community Farm Store in Duncan, BC, where she learned the retail aspects of growing and selling organic food. Through this work she met local farmers and become cognizant of their successes and challenges to earn a living by practicing ethical and organic techniques. All during this time she kept up her studies in organic horticulture, herbalism, nutrition, and taking 'detours' into administration, bookkeeping, and insurance.

Now, her gardening journey continues at Gaia College as an administrator.

Gaia College is a virtual college that provides online and classroom classes in Organic Land Care and Living Green Infrastructure.

"The Essence of Organic Gardening" is a mini version of their most popular course - the Organic Master Gardener course. Relax, sit back and get inspired to create a vibrantly healthy garden.

Mary Vandenberg & Cliff Stainsby

Membership

We warmly welcome our ten new members: Randy Bouchard, David Byrnes, Maureen Collister, Laura Ferreira, Eva Janecek, Dorothy Kennedy, Bill Langdon, Pamela Langdon, Liz Lindquist and Diane Peters.

If you haven't already done so in September, returning members are asked to bring the \$10 annual fee to the October meeting. Marie (Treasurer) will be happy to give you a membership card in exchange for the cash. Those who have not paid up by the January meeting will not receive subsequent newsletters."

Join or Renew Your Membership



JoAnn Mulhern



"Sunshine Mary"



Our esteemed Lifetime Member, Mary Gale, has for a very many years, been sending cards and kind words to those members who are experiencing illness or loss. She does this on behalf of the Mill Bay Garden Club, bringing a spot of sunshine into what is often 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 Mary know and she will send a card on our behalf.

And should you have any blank cards (handcrafted most welcome!) that you would like to donate toward this endeavour, they would be very much appreciated.



Plant Table



Got some perennials you're splitting & would like to donate to the plant table? Some produce to share or preserves? Always appreciated & the moneys go to the club, with proceeds donated to the community, end of the garden year.

We have lots of buckets of alpaca manure which is great to add to your gardens (flower or veggie) any time of year. Alpacas digest very well, & no weeds in this manure. (aged chicken manure & peat also mixed in.) Suggested donation: \$5. Please return your buckets so we can replenish. Also: If you have lots of one gallon pots to spare, bring them along to the plant sales table. We use lots at Cairnsmore garden.

See you soon,

Monika Morgan & Sharon Martin.

Social Media



If you use Facebook, don't forget to check us out and "**LIKE**" us at:
www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub

*Pauline Dueck
FaceBook Coordinator*

Flower and Garden Show May 2108

Chair, Gillian Keir

I would like to ask members to consider volunteering for the 2018 Flower and Garden show.

We will need committee heads for:

Judging Sub Committee; Hall Co-ordination Sub-Committee; Signs/Programs/Judging Forms Sub-Committee; Silent auction Sub-Committee Chair; Outdoor Vendors Sub-Committee; Promotions & Publicity Sub-Committee; Miscellaneous (table linens, rosettes, etc.) Sub-Committee; Coordinator. (table Workshop

Thank you for your consideration.

Gill Keir



Gardening Tips for November by Barb Kohlman

In our warmish climate you can still plant container grown trees and shrubs, or even move some established specimens.

I know you still have blooms on your roses, but pick a bouquet, and cut off the rest of the blooms and strip the leaves. Clean up the ground, discard the leaves in the garbage and mulch the plants with some compost.

You can continue to clean up your garden beds if you have not finished, but leave some seed heads for the birds.

Plant a "winter" arrangement in your pots to last through the whole season. They can be augmented with holly and evergreens for the holiday season.

Prepare empty vegetable beds for next spring by digging in compost----be sure they are weed-free. Cover crops can be sown as soil protectors and used for soil enhancement next spring. A favourite would be fava beans.

Garlic should be all planted by now.

Got a gap? In your flower beds that is check out the nurseries for new and interesting ideas.

Remember green is a colour especially if it turns to fall shades at this time of year.

Cheers,
barb k.



Christmas Party Potluck 2017

Remember to set aside the date Tuesday December 5th for our annual Christmas Party Potluck Dinner. It's always lots of fun, food and games. Come set up your table at 5:30 and enjoy dinner at 6 pm.

Make a center piece for your table and enter into the contest. This year's theme is

Bells and Boughs



Gentlemen and Women of the Wasp World

At this pleasant time of year many of us are sitting out in the garden and enjoying the fruits of our labours. As you sip your beverage your eyes roam over the garden loveliness as it starts to fade gently towards the fall.

Then a swarm of wasps arrive and you are reminded that gardening is a bloody-minded venture that no one in their right mind should take on!

This year I was stung by the gentlemen and ladies of the wasp world- the small paper wasps. They build the small open nests on the sides and peaks of buildings. Their nests are never covered with paper. They rarely sting and do a great job of cleaning up the caterpillars on the plants. They always nest in the eaves of the greenhouse and have never been a problem. This year one nest was too close for comfort and we had a little confrontation.

The colony was extremely active and the queen actually turned around and looked at me. Suddenly she gave a signal and the colony left the nest and took off after me. I ran away waving my arms and hollering unpleasant phases.

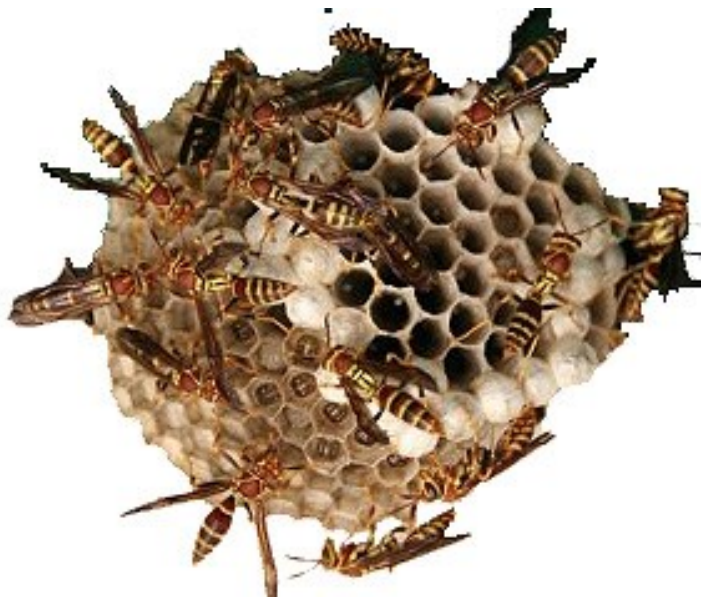
Although I had a few stings, none of them hurt more than an hour. Later when I returned to the scene of the crime (why?) the nest was missing completely. Mr. Big told me "No bunch of bugs were going to sting up his woman and get away with it!" What old movie did this line come from?

We have a relationship with bugs that many of you share. He hates them, I love them. He owns a bunch of swatters and chemicals and I have a variety of clear non-lethal bug observing containers. He relishes any opportunity to hone his bug murdering skills and I spend a lot of time rushing around yelling, "Don't kill it!"

However, I draw the line at yellow jackets and hornets. Yes I know they do an important job collecting all the bad guys that eat our plants, but they ruin picnics and take great joy in stinging us. Unlike bees, they can sting us again and again.

However you will not get stung at the second fall meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club Tuesday October 24th 6:45 pm at the Mill Bay Hall. Everyone (except hornets and yellow jackets) welcome!

Fran Benton



**Mill Bay Garden Club
General Meeting Minutes**

September 26, 2017

Minutes

Call to Order: 7 p.m.

Acceptance of minutes from the AGM

Moved Norman

Seconded Nick

All in favour, Carried

Reports:

President – Ajay Oppelaar

Welcome back

Thank you to executive and committee members for opening early for membership.

Members Forum

The Millennium garden for the Mill Bay Hall needs a subcommittee of four people to take care of space, sign up sheet was circulated.

Vice President: Cliff Stainsbury

Discussion on tour possibilities and logistics

Speakers list prepared, still looking for February

Treasurer Report: Marie Cooke We have \$1452. in the bank, \$1000 is earmarked for the bursary.

Committee Reports

Membership: Jo-Ann Mulhern

We have 45 signed up members and 9 new members

Website: Gord Hamilton

Gord is happy to have any submissions from club members

Sunshine Lady: Mary Gale Mary is no longer the historian and is now the sunshine lady.

Raffle: Tracy Morris

Lots of good things available and a mystery prize from Dinters

Plant Sale Table: Monika Morgan

Plant sales available! Alpaca gold is available for \$5

Kitchen: Mary-Ellen Deuling

If you have signed up and can't be here please contact Mary Ellen

Flower and Garden Show: Gillian Keir

A list of members for the committee will be available. The committees get to work in January. The date of the show will soon to be available. There was discussion about the date reverting to June. The June date created a conflict with the Cowichan group sale. There was a large vintage show in June that conflicted. In fact there were many conflicts.

Library: Janice Rose

There are a lot of great new books available. Many were signed out in the spring for summer reading, please bring the books back!

Facebook: Pauline Dueck

Local garden events are posted on the Facebook. page

MBGC Meeting Minutes for September 26, 2017 cont'd

Members Forum

Dot Garbet 743 3940 needs some help with her garden. She has hurt herself and could use help.

Members Forum

Ian---- is promoting a botanic garden for the Cowichan valley.

Brag Table: Barb Kohlman "Sexy Bloomers"

Q and A: Cliff Stainsby

Strawberries need 18 inches space between them. Replace 1/3 plants after 3rd year. Good organic compost mix with good drainage. Don't over water or they go mouldy.

Fungus question –what is it? Came in on woodchips. Not a problem.

Should rhodos be fed now? No! feed in February and a bit after blooming.

Borden's slow release organic fertilizer use it all the time (Barb) except the coldest times of the year because the ingredients do not break down in the cold. It's very mild. Available at Borden Mercantile in Victoria

Coffee Break

Raffle

Speaker: Gord Baird gave an excellent talk about the kinds of foods he grows in his innovative garden.

Adjourn: 9:05 pm



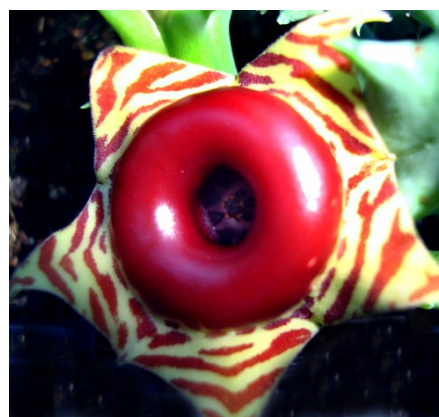
Howdy,

Here is the funny "cactus" picture.

So the story is that I bought this plant with a number of other succulents at a master gardener plant sale in Victoria. The plants did not have a label. When it flowered it was easy to discover it is Heuernia zebrina. This little succulent is called the lifesaver star cactus. Its not a cactus at all but wow what a wild flower. I have

broken the plant up into many pieces and will have lots for our MBGC plant sales in the future!

Fran Benton



Upcoming Events

Job Posting at Providence Farm:

Here is a link to the job posting at Providence Farm: <https://providencefarm.wildapricot.org/Employment>

I would really appreciate it if you might distribute to your Mill Bay Garden club or wherever else you might feel appropriate. The position will be posted until a candidate is chosen.



The position is for a 'Nature Based Therapy Program Co-Cordinator', it is for a 1 year term. Providence is a wonderful place to work! I would highly recommend if anyone is interested in mental health and nature based therapy to apply. A more detailed description can be found at the link.



Victoria Master Gardener Association

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

February to May 2018

Thursdays 6pm to 9pm and Sundays 9am to 12 noon

****Registration now open ****

Call 250 479 6162 to add your name to the interest list.

Lifelong learning is at the heart of the Victoria Master Gardener Association, the idea that no one can possibly know it all; that there is no shame in saying "I don't know but I know who to ask". Amazing gardeners here at the HCP say it all the time. The thing is you have to start somewhere and the Master Gardener Program is the place. You will learn current, reliable home gardening basics – the framework to pin everything else to. You will also learn how to look it up, who to ask and how to share that knowledge of sound, environmentally responsible gardening practices with the community.

The course is taught at the HCP by a Pacific Horticulture College instructors and Master Gardeners and consists of 26 3-hour sessions that combine classroom instruction, home study, hands-on practicum, assignments and in-class projects. Guest lecturers add their knowledge, contributing immeasurably to the experience. The cost including all handouts and texts is \$745.00.

Following the completion of the classroom course, graduates can become members of the Victoria Master Gardener Association (VMGA) as a Master Gardener in Training. To receive Master Gardener Certification completion of 60 hours of volunteer training over a 18 month period is required.

Master Gardeners combine a passion for gardening and the dedication to share their knowledge with the community. As part of an international, non-profit organization, the main focus of the VMGA volunteers is towards educating the home gardener through answering gardening questions at clinics at assorted gardening events, nurseries, fairs etc. throughout the south island community; participating in a choice of a wide variety of community outreach projects, i.e. the Junior Master Gardener Program, and researching and writing horticulture articles and resource materials of interest to gardeners. Gardening education opportunities for members are ongoing.