



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, November 28th**

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

November Brag Table Theme:

Muddling Through

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!

November Speaker:

Barrie Agar

Japanese Gardens

See page 4 for details



Kitchen Duties:

1 litre of 2% milk: *Louise Ketilson*

Cookies/Snacks: *Kate Roberts, Ann Baty, Heather Jenkins*

Kitchen Helpers: *Diane Peters, Deb Tustin, Dot Garbet*

Set-up/clean up: *Barb Kohlman, Simon and Hedda Hutchins, Pauline Dueck*

Please email me if you cannot make the meeting.

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



Help Needed! Apply within.

Desperately seeking
Newsletter Editor!

See Page 4 for details.





MBGC CHRISTMAS POTLUCK !

TUESDAY DECEMBER 5th, 2017

This year the Christmas potluck dinner is on December 5th at the Mill Bay Community League Hall. 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, they are all welcome!

Details:

- * * Turkey, Ham (with mustard mousse!), Punch, Coffee, Tea — all provided courtesy of MBGC.
- * * Members provide potluck dishes: appys, salads, veggies, desserts, etc. (Please bring a generous serving of your potluck dish so that all can enjoy a taste!)
- * * Bring your own plates, cups, cutlery, napkins....(No alcohol please)
- * * We are encouraging you to bring cash for the food bank or a non-perishable item - donation boxes will be provided near the Hall entrance. (Cash works best for the food bank)

Fun Stuff:

- * * **Table Centerpiece** -- theme is "**Bells and Boughs**" - create an arrangement for your table (*candles cannot be lit*). Win one of 3 prizes!
- * * **Raffle Prize** -- receive a FREE raffle ticket upon arrival. Prize number to be drawn sometime during the evening.
- * * **Gift Exchange** -- place an anonymous gift (\$10 limit on value) under the tree, get your number and be eligible to receive a gift.
- * * **Word Jumble by Ajay** -- always fun!
- * * **Carol Singing** -- there will be a sing-a-long, led by some lovely voices of club members; song sheets available for all to join in. And there is a piano in the Hall if anyone would like to accompany the singers.... other instruments are also welcome!



President's Report

Ajay Oppelaar

Okay, so I wasn't actually at the Exec and committee meeting last week. Thanks to Cliff and Mary-Ellen hosting the meeting, Tom and I were allowed to have a bit of extended holiday time down in Florida. I have however read the minutes and talked with Cliff so let's go ahead with a report regardless.

First out of the gate is that if you currently receive this newsletter but do not renew your membership by the January meeting you will no longer receive this publication beginning in February. Please pay your \$10 renewal fee to JoAnn by January 23th.

The Christmas potluck is Tuesday the 5th of December at 6pm. The usual silliness will occur along with some entertainment, games and gift exchange. We're asking that instead of canned goods being donated for the food bank, a cash donation box will take its place. The Food Bank can do far more with the money than it can with individual donations of canned and dried goods.

We still need two volunteers to cook the turkeys for all to enjoy. Janice is doing her usual superb baked ham with mustard mousse, and I will have a big pan of stuffing. Please bring your favourite side dish or dessert to share with the group. For you new members, we always have a centerpiece competition so please bring your creative efforts for all to enjoy. The theme of Bells and Boughs is sure to bring on some stiff competition this year, and please include both bells and boughs in the display. No open flame candles are allowed, but the new battery operated ones work great.

Doors will open for set-up at 4:45, with food service beginning at 6. Bring your fancy linens and all eating implements and plates. Marking your potluck items with a brief description is appreciated as well.

We will be having a new coffee trial with suggestions and comments taken at the January meeting. Cliff has suggested that we are a tea only club, and I'd like to prove him wrong.....

It looks like we are in need of a newsletter editor. If any of you have an interest in getting involved in a higher level with the operation of the club please talk with me or Mary Vandenberg in person or via email. It's a really important part of what we are as a group, and the monthly committee meetings are in general pretty fun. I'm biased though.

Thank you to the six people who stepped up to be on the Millennium garden committee. They are moving forward with a plan and a date for work to be done.

See you next week! Please remember your name tag and coffee or (for Cliff) tea mug.

Ajay Oppelaar



November's Speaker:

Barrie Agar on Japanese Gardens

We are pleased to have Barrie Agar as our speaker this month. She is a lot of fun and has a great love of Japanese Gardens.

This is what she has to say 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.

I love Japanese Gardens

This photo is of a garden, Saiho-ji, or better known as the Moss Garden.



Newsletter Editor required beginning January 2018

Do you like to be creative? Is your computer your friend?

Consider being our Newsletter Editor! I'll help you get started.

Don't be shy, let Ajay or Cliff know if you are interested. Their contacts are under the Executive side column on this page.

Mary Vandenberg



Membership

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for the 2017 - 2018 season, you can do so by giving Marie Cooke (Treasurer) your \$10 at our next meeting (Tuesday, Nov.28) either before the meeting begins (6:30 - 7pm) or during the break. Then check in with JoAnn Mulhern (Membership) to ensure that our records are up to date.

Join or Renew Your Membership



A warm welcome to new members who joined our garden club at the October meeting: Larry Smokorowski and Stephanie Taylor.

"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

Xmas is approaching fast. Time to turn our gardening talents to **crafty endeavours**. Have you holly, witch hazel, or other items of interest? Bring them to the plant table if you have some to share. Extra squash or produce? **Surprise us**.

See you then.

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

I would like to encourage people to bring cash donations for the food bank. Here is an article regarding that topic:

<http://vancouver.sun.com/storyline/for-the-love-of-god-stop-donating-canned-goods-to-the-food-bank>

Pauline Dueck
FaceBook Coordinator



**Mill Bay Garden Club general meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 7pm**

7PM call to order

President's report: Ajay Oppelaar

Acceptance of minutes from Septembers meeting, moved Al Mikalishen, seconded Megan O'Hara
Thank you to set up crew and kitchen staff. We will be unlocking the doors at 6:30 pm in future.

Member's forum requests

Questions about president's report

Millennium garden sub-committee, sign-up sheets are circulating.

Need 2 more people for the committee

Sign up sheet is circulating for kitchen volunteers and Christmas party.

Coffee issue - the coffee we serve does not seem to be popular, ½ drink decaf, everyone thinks we need better quality coffee.

Folks with hearing problems, please sit closer to the front of the room, we will ask people to speak louder when questions are being asked, and repeat questions if needed.

Sam Fisher has passed on. The meeting sends condolences, Mary Gale to send card. November 18th will be the commemoration ceremony.

VP report: Cliff Stainsby

Speakers update

Garden tour update There will be a tour of Gord Baird's property for club members. There is a sign up sheet and there is a fee for Gord's tour.

Treasurer's report: Marie Cooke

We have \$358 in the bank account.

Secretary's report: Fran Benton

Fran described Pregnant onion (Albuca), an unusual houseplant, we have some in the plant sale tonight.

Fran mentioned that she has written the garden articles on behalf of the MBGC for the Cowichan Press for two years now, and thinks it's time someone else had a chance to share their garden notes and thoughts with the community. Let her know if you are interested.

Committee reports

Membership: JoAnn Mulhern

We welcomed Larry and Stephanie to the garden club tonight!

Sunshine: Mary Gale

Mary has been given lots of cards thanks to Louise, Cecile, Deb, Dot!

Raffle: Tracy Morris

Lots of lovely things!

Plant Sale table: Monika Morgan

Lots of cool plants for sale, Norm brought in scarlet runner beans, we have dried flowers, and alpaca manure

Newsletter: Mary Vandenberg on behalf of Angie Stanta

Let her know if you did not get your newsletter.

Library: Mary Vandenberg in for Mary Heath for Janice Rose. OMG!

Please remember to return your books!

Flower and garden show: Gillian Keir

Sign up sheet for positions were circulated.

Website: Gord Hamilton

He will be keeping copies of the past newsletters.

Members forum:

Norm spoke about dahlias and has a book full of pictures of the varieties he grows . He has a technique of cutting and wrapping tubers that works very well. Talk to Norm if you are interested.

October General Meeting Minutes cont'd

Brag Table: Barb Kohlman with "Put it in a pumpkin"
One arrangement was in a pumpkin!

Q and A: Bill Herring

Bill talked about new club root resistant Brassica seeds. He and Cliff and Heather tested these this summer. He reports that he still had club root but the cabbage "Stanton" was still edible, the Cauliflower "Clapton" was good and the Brussel Sprouts "Crispus" were fantastic.

Ajay responded to a question about pruning hydrangeas. He said that you could prune the PGs to one foot if you like. The Macrophyllums should be pruned on a two year rotation method cutting ½ this year and then ½ next year. That way you will still get bloom on half of the plant. After pruning add compost and a good drink of water.

Bill mentioned that a handful of cooking salt is good for asparagus plants in spring.

There was a question about transplanting Romneya. The response was no, transplant a sucker in late January.

Social coffee break

Raffle

Speaker The Essence of Organic Gardening with Ann Hoelzer

Adjournment and cleanup 9:15 pm

Gardening Tips for December by Barb Kohlman

My cherry tree leaves are finally all down----so raking the last of them off the lawn and putting them on the veggie beds. Those that fall on the perennial beds stay there till early spring to protect the soil and the plants.

I have it on good authority that you can still sow broad beans, mustard greens, radishes with a cover and transplant spinach greens to the garden with a cover.

Re-plan your veggie gardens for next year to allow for crop rotation.

Clear leaves and debris from your ponds.

Prune berry bushes - old canes to the ground and any damaged or crossed and crowding branches.

Spread some dolomite lime on plants that prefer a more alkaline soil like lilacs and on your veggie gardens.

Perhaps some lights in your garden would give winter interest. A single spotlight angled up into a deciduous tree is stunning.

You may have some *Rosa rugosa* shrubs with wonderful hips---don't forget to use them in winter plant displays, indoors or out.

Cheers, Barb k.

