



# 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 27th, 2018**

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!**



## November Speaker:

**Barb Kohlman**

**Garden Design in a Flash**

*See page 3 for details*

## November Brag Table Theme

### **Branches... Undressed**

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!

## Help Needed! Apply within.

Urgently seeking  
**Raffle Table Person**

See Page 4 for details.

## Inside...

- President's Report p 4
- This Month's Speaker p 5
- Executive/Committee Reports p 5-7
- News etc p 8
- Upcoming Events p 8
- Fran's Perspective p 9
- October mtg minutes p 10
- Barb's Gardening Tips p 11



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



# MBGC Christmas Potluck!

**Tuesday December 4th, 2018**

This year's Christmas Potluck Dinner will be held on December 4th 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, 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 so that all can enjoy a taste!)
- **Bring your own plates, cups, cutlery, napkins — (No alcohol please)**
- **We encourage you to bring cash for the food bank — donation boxes will be provided near the Hall entrance. (Cash works best for the food bank.)**

## Fun Stuff:

- Table Centrepiece — theme is *"All That Glitters"*. 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!



My Dear Friends and Fellow  
Members of the Garden Club, I  
wish to thank you all for the  
fantastic number of get well cards etc  
that I received. It certainly boosted  
my moral as I read them, and hopefully  
helped me to recover quicker.

I am missing you all, I  
have never spent so much time  
doing nothing.!!!

My Best Wishes to you all,  
See you soon.

Mary

## President's Report

Donna Kaiser

What a wonderful Fall we have had with the weather cooperating and giving us a time to tidy our gardens and mulch in mostly dry weather. No need to feel guilty now when snuggling up by the fire and reading a book!

We have had a great response to our membership payment drive this year, but for those of you who still have not paid, please do so before January 22, 2019.

December 4th will be my first Christmas Potluck with the Club since in previous years I have been away or unable to attend. It should be a fun night of good food, entertainment, games and an anonymous gift exchange. Gifts are to be no more than \$10 and can be put under the tree to be distributed by our own garden elves.

The Club will supply the evening's protein, and we welcome everyone to bring their favourite side dish or dessert. Janice will bring her special ham and mustard mousse, Ajay will supply the dressing, and I will be cooking one of the turkeys and of course, the gravy. We do need a volunteer to help us cook the second turkey. Please let us know if you can help us. Coffee and tea will be supplied.

For new members we have a table centerpiece competition, and this year's theme is "All That Glitters in Gold." No open-flame candles please. Nice that there are nifty battery-run alternatives available.

Doors open at 4:30 pm for set-up, with dining at 6:00 pm. Please bring your own utensils, plates, coffee or tea mug.

For our annual food bank contributions, instead of donated food, the local food bank prefers money in envelopes that they can use to purchase food in bulk. Thank you for your generosity. There will be a basket set up to collect your donations.

We are in need of someone to replace Cori-Lee at the raffle table. Our good friend is moving away and while we will miss her very much, we wish her the best. Cori-Lee will help the new volunteer get acquainted with the process at our next meeting.

The recent grave fire situation in California came up at our Executive Meeting last week, and set off a discussion about the need for appraising our own gardens for fire-readiness. We will plan for a Club discussion about this in the New Year. If anyone has information that can be shared on this subject, please let us know.

See everyone at the meeting on November 27th!



### **Raffle Table Person required beginning January 2018!**

Looking for a way to support the club? Consider taking over the running of the Raffle Table!

Cori-Lee will help you get started. Don't be a shrinking violet - let Donna or Bernie know if you are interested. Their contacts are under the Executive side column on page 5.

## November's Speaker:

### Barb Kohlman on "Garden Design in a Flash"

MBGC member and Brag Table host Barb Kohlman is a Certified Horticulture Technician, graduated from Pacific Horticulture College. She has been teaching in the Master Gardener Program for Horticulture Centre of the Pacific for almost 20 years and also for Malaspina/VIU. Garden design is a favourite part of this experience.

#### Abstract

Explore how to use your own garden style. Turn your garden dreams into a successful, satisfying living space through planning and adopting standard principles for garden design. Space, scale, texture, colour and more come into play... and enjoy the play!

## Committee Reports

### Plant Table

It's time to start getting creative & crafty. Bring your greens (or naked branches) to share at the plant sales table. It's amazing what you can put together for your festive wreath or pots.

Also: Once again Elaine Scott is generously sharing many pounds of kiwis with us. We will have brown bags available for you to fill for a very reasonable price. (They will need to ripen over the next 2 months.) We also hope to have more eggs from the Alpaca farm (from their chickens ofcourse. Alpaca gold on hold till after new years.)

Bring your loonies & toonies & whatever you would like to share. Be generous. Remember the funds we make go towards charity in our community. See you soon!

*Your friendly plant sales team,  
Monika Morgan & Sharon Martin*



## Committee Reports (Cont'd)

### Membership

We are thrilled to welcome the many new members who have joined our garden club this fall. In addition to the fourteen lifetime members, we now have just over 100 new and active returning members. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please see Marie (to pay the \$10 fee) and JoAnn (to confirm accuracy of contact information) at the next meeting.

*JoAnn Mulhern*

### Notes from the Library

Please come and check out the next installment of our latest addition to our library. And remember: books taken out in November are not returned until late January. Winter is the best time for Mill Bay gardeners to put up their feet and enjoy a stack of the greatest gardening books of all time!

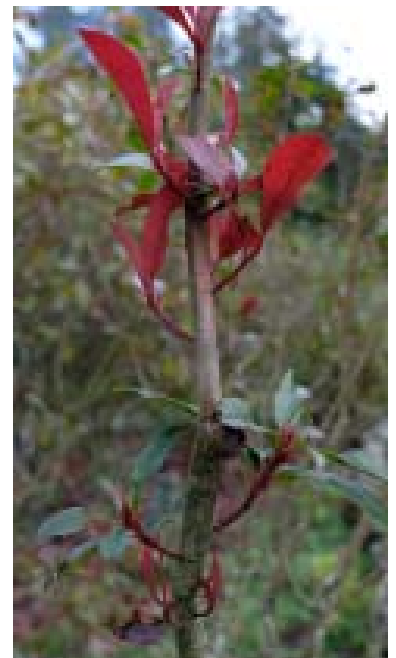
Please remember to return books borrowed at our last meetings.

*Your friendly librarian,  
Janice Rose*

### “Sunshine Mary”

**Our esteemed Life 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.



## Committee Reports (Cont'd)

### Raffle Table Report

We had a real flurry of ticket sales toward raffle prizes during October's monthly meeting. My sincerest thank you for these donations to our October Raffle Table:

- Gift coupon for homemade cookies, to be served on a hand-crafted pottery plate, from Fran Benton. (So many tickets were purchased for this item that I had to use a big basket in order to shake them up for the draw!)
- Greeting cards created from lovely floral photographs taken by Ann Baty.
- 100ft flexible garden hose from Norm Redcliffe.
- Grand Prize: \$25 Gift Certificate from Lee Valley (obtained by Bobbie Burns)

And last, but not least.... my thanks to Mary-Ellen Deuling for pulling tickets and being our "prize runner"!

As always, any donations to the raffle of either NEW or hand-crafted items are most appreciated. (Hand-crafted can include baking, jams, etc or coupons for same).

How it works: tickets are 3 for a loonie; there will be three raffle prizes to place tickets against; ALL tickets are included in the Grand Prize draw. Tickets are purchased prior to meeting and during coffee break.

Personal note: I will be leaving the lovely Cowichan Valley, and thus the Mill Bay Garden Club, to move to Victoria mid-December. I will miss you all!! **And.... The club NEEDS someone to take over the RAFFLE TABLE.** Please think about it, I will happily meet with you and show you the ropes. It's a fun task and only requires maybe 2-3 hours per month outside of the meeting. It's an activity that helps raise some dollars and is so enjoyed by club members on meeting nights. Let me know of your interest at meeting on November 27th or contact me via phone/ email (see contact info in Newsletter).

All the very best to each of you.... Au revoir!

*Cori-Lee*

### 2019 Flower & Garden Show

May 24th & 25th, 2019

Please start thinking about what you would like to do.

Silent Auction, Judges, Outside Vendors, Plant Sale, Set Up, Take Down, and more. All positions will be listed on a sheet to be circulated the the November general meeting. We run the show around the Silent Auction.

*Thanks! Gill*



## All the News That's Fit (That Fits)

### **CFLA Fundraiser Garden Tour Seeks Help**

The Cowichan Garden Tour, sponsored by the Cowichan Family Life Association is happening Mother's Day, May 12, 2019. They are looking for volunteers to be Garden Greeters for 4 hours in the morning or afternoon. Duties will be greeting visitors, checking their admission tickets and selling raffle tickets. All gardens are in or around the Duncan area. Volunteers will be given free admission to all the gardens and will have an invitation to the social after the event.

### **Mixing It Up — Sold Out!**

The Victoria Master Gardeners Association's **Mixing It Up in the Urban Garden day-long event "Beauty and the Beast"** takes place at the Mary Minspear Centre in Sidney on 2 February 2019 from 9am—4pm.

The \$100 cost includes delicious food at lunch and breaks, and free parking.

**This event is now sold out.** If you'd like to get on the wait list, follow this link:  
<http://www.karelo.com/register.php?BID=641&BT=10&PrivEv=18106>

## Upcoming Events

- **Gordon Head Garden Club Regular Meeting Mon 3 December, 7pm**  
4201 Tyndall - contact [heatheroa@shaw.ca](mailto:heatheroa@shaw.ca) for details.
- **Victoria Rhododendrum Society Christmas Potluck, Mon 3 December, 5:30pm.** (Earlier time)  
HCP, 505 Quayle. Contact [victoriarhododendron@gmail.com](mailto:victoriarhododendron@gmail.com).
- **Peninsula Garden Club Christmas Potluck, Mon 10 December, 6pm.**  
2243 Beacon, Sidney. Contact [publicity.pgclub@gmail.com](mailto:publicity.pgclub@gmail.com).
- **Vancouver Island Bonsai Society Christmas Social, Mon 17 December, 7pm.**  
HCP, 505 Quayle. Contact [webmaster@victoriabonsai.bc.ca](mailto:webmaster@victoriabonsai.bc.ca)



## So Long Cedars by Fran Benton

I am sitting with a nice cup of coffee and a freshly made chocolate croissant looking out the window at the rain. Bloody rain. Fall colours are lovely but all this rain is getting in the way of some quality fall gardening. There is, however, this lovely pastry to consume, mmmmmm! Out my window is a grove of cedar and fir trees. Hmmm, I wonder how old are they? The monster western red cedars are probably over 60 years old. But how old are cedars as a group? Conifers developed as a group over 400 million years ago in the Devonian. Our cedars developed about 65 million years ago, give or take a few million years.

I fret about the cedars because the drought we have been experiencing in the last few years is having a serious impact on them. As you drive up island you can see that some of the cedars along the roadside are dead and dying. Cedars need lots of water and they thrive in our wet west coast forests. They like



the company of other trees, especially their own species, and hate being exposed by logging. Cedars associate with sword ferns in the wild as both enjoy being damp. If the cedars are in an exposed area or experience a lot of hot dry weather they suffer. They are in good company as our Arbutus is suffering from a blight that damages and occasionally kills the tree. Climate change makes our weather more unstable but I always thought it would make us wetter not drier.

Here is some useful cedar information gleaned from trotting along the information highway. You know how you get itchy every time you take cedar branches to recycling? It turns out that cedars have three chemicals in their branches that are pretty irritating. Plicatic acid can give you asthma and contact dermatitis. Thujone gives the menthol smell of the branches. In small quantities it is used to make perfume. In large quantities it can harm the nervous system. Thujaplicin is a fungicide and bacteriacide. It's this chemical that makes cedar so good for blanket chests. Ever notice that plants do not like growing under cedar trees? Now I know why!

Now, back to that pastry!

## MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

7:00 pm Tuesday 23 October 2018 at Mill Bay Community Centre

1. Call to Order

2. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes: 25 Sept. 2018

Moved Norm Redcliffe

Seconded Janice Rose

3. **President's Report:** Donna Kaiser

- Thank you to set up and kitchen crew
- Trophy display case

We have permission to have this made. We need a club member to make a small trophy case. Volunteers?

- Mary Gale cards

A fantastic number of cards were collected for Mary who has injured herself and is resting at home

4. **Vice President's Report:** Bernie Juurlink

Bernie circulated a list to solicit suggestions for speakers.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Marie Cooke

6. **Secretary's Report:** Fran Benton

Fran mentioned that our wonderful Pauline Deuck will be teaching a class in acrylic painting with the Community Arts Council in Duncan.

7. Committee Reports:

a. **Membership:** JoAnn Mulhern

We have 11 new members and they were introduced at this meeting. Welcome!

d. **Facebook:** Pauline Dueck

Please like us on facebook!

e. **Raffle:** Cori-Lee Fisher

We will be presenting three raffle items plus a grand prize at each meeting. There will be a runner to take the winners their winnings. This will speed the raffle up.

f. **Plant sales:** Monica Morgan

Lots of plants, vegetables, and fruits. Wow!

g. **Library:** Janice Rose

Janice has received a new donation of books so get borrowing!

8. Members' Forum Bill Herring

Bill Herring returned to field questions about garlic and broccoli.

## 9. Brag Table: Ali Morris

The table was loaded so I kept track of all the plants and recomposed it as a conceptual poem.

*Shrubroseslesceteriadahliaagapanthus  
clematisJapanesenenomeirisgladiola  
sedumsgressesapplesmaplescotoneaster  
fusciasalviakoreanchrysanthemumcamelia  
cannabis and one massive onion.*

11. Short refreshment break: 20 minutes

12. Raffle- quick and fabulous!

14. Tonight's Speaker: **Linda Gilkeson, "Planning Your 12 Month Food Garden"**

15. Adjournment: 9:00pm

## **Gardening Tips for November 2018** by Barb Kohlman

Looking out into my garden:

I am still enjoying colour from leaves and twigs etc.

So don't forget to appreciate this time in the garden.

If you haven't gotten all the debris off your lawns it is best to do so. The grass will still photosynthesize a certain amount over the winter.

Rake those leaves straight onto your flower beds if you don't have time (or energy/initiative) to rake and store in a compost area.

Make sure pots that are left in your garden are not filling with rain and drowning your plants.

If you are storing plants in your green-house make sure you check them for water needs periodically. They can dry out over the winter.

Good to go to the couch now and check all those gardening magazines for next years' garden "improvements"

*Cheers — barb k*

