



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, February 26, 2019**

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!



February Speakers:

Elaine Scott & Barb Kohlman

On Propagation: Rooting Cuttings (BK) and Growing Plants from Seeds (ES)



February Brag Table Theme

Nipped in the Bud

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!

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

President's Report

Donna Kaiser

As I sit writing this report, I'm longing for rain and green shrubs. Like yours, my garden is under two feet of snow, and where the plow has been down our street, some poor plants have been buried alive. Seed catalogues and garden books are the makings of dreams these days.

Speaking of which, check out our library at the next meeting so Janice won't have so many books to pack home. In addition, there will be some special library news revealed at the next meeting.....

Our executive meeting was cancelled due to weather but through the many e-mails since, we have hopes of meeting shortly after this news letter goes out.

Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday is on March 9th. We will be in the main hall and a big thank you to all the folks who signed up to let everyone know about our great Club.

Our Club insurance policy has been renewed, which will cover all Club meetings, shows, demonstrations and tours.

Gillian Keir is heading up the Flower and Garden Show again this year and is working very hard on its organization. The silent auction is still in need of a Chair: there are a number of helpers, but it would be great to have someone in charge. Please give that some thought, and if it sounds like something you would like to take on for the Club, Gill would love to talk to you.

We are hoping everyone in the Club will donate an item for the silent auction. With all of us contributing, it will make the job of the coordinator far less onerous. Though I haven't made it yet, my contribution will be a handmade quilt (one of my other passions). Some other ideas: GARDEN TOOLS, PLANTS, BAKING, WOODWORKING, POTTERY, PAINTINGS, etc.

Thanks also to Katherine Miller and Stephanie Taylor for taking on the raffle table, it is such a fun part of our meetings.

Hopefully the snow will stay away and we will see you all on the 26th.

Cheers, Donna

2019 Flower & Garden Show

May 25th & 26th, 2019

The 2019 Mill Bay Garden Club Community Flower and Garden Show will be held on May 25th and 26th at the Cobble Hill Hall.

Please start thinking about what you would like to do. We still need committee heads for the **Silent Auction, Inside Hall Coordinator, Publicity & Promotion.**

Thanks, Gill Keir

February's Speakers:

Barb Kohlman and Elaine Scott on Plant Propagation

Abstract

The topic of the presentation for the February meeting will be propagation and will be presented by Barb Kohlman (rooting cuttings) and Elaine Scott (growing plants from seed).

There are many methods of propagation such as sowing seeds, germinating spores, rooting cuttings, division, simple layering, grafting, and dividing bulbs, corms and tubers. Due to the restriction of time, growing plants from seed and rooting cuttings will be the only two propagation methods that will be covered in the presentation. Two handouts have been posted on the web site and members are encouraged to access these handouts prior to the meeting. Detailed information will be provided during the presentation which is timely as now is a good time to get some of your seeds started such as tomatoes. "

"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

Plant Table

We had some nice colour on our plant table in January thanx to Ali Morris & her donated aconites, & hellebores from AJ.

We have a February folly now, where things got nipped in the bud, & few snow survivors remain! Even the alpaca manure is frozen. We can only dream of gardening! So we will have lots of (free) gardening magazines to help you dream & plan. But the novelty of living on our island is we know it's only a matter of time. So, how can we generate income this month?. Got any garden treasures to donate that we can cover our table with?

Let's see what we can come up with. See you Feb 26 (hopefully without snow:)

*your plant sales team
Monika & Sharon.*

Notes from the Library

Finally our subscription to 'Birds and Blooms' has arrived. Open the cover and inside you'll find a lot of information about "gardens with a purpose", including information on pollinators, propagating, nesting boxes and gorgeous photos and descriptions of birds found in our gardens. I also bought an excellent book for our collection at the gardening conference on February 2 in Sidney. 'How to Propagate' by John Cushnie describes techniques and tips for propagating over 1000 plants. A reminder to please return all recently borrowed books to our February meeting. Many thanks!

*Your friendly librarian,
Janice Rose*



Gardening Tips for February-March 2019 by Barb Kohlman

What can I say!!!!!!! Keep digging out of the snow and keep warm.

Propagating may be the best garden practice right now--- if you can get to your supplies.

Otherwise keep perusing the garden catalogues and magazines for what your wish list can be and dream of warming soil and optimum planting conditions.

I (strongly) mentioned last meeting that it is too early to work your soil. WAIT till the soil has dried enough to work without causing damage to its' structure. Soil structure is how the aggregates (groupings of particles of sand, silt and clay held together by humus) are formed and held together to allow good drainage but still hold enough water for the use of our plants and for the soil micro organisms.

Raised veggie beds will dry and warm up sooner, but this will now be delayed till the snow moisture disperses.

Stepping on soil surfaces while wet will cause compaction, squeezing all the air out of your soil profile, especially in the top 12" of soil. Plants and organisms need just as much air in the soil profile as they do moisture. Plant roots, the fibrous ones, grow in the top 12"-18" of the soil. So it follows that you will be limiting your plant growth and health when compacting the soil. Stepping stones and pathways in your ornamental garden beds will help to avoid the problem where the actual plants are growing.

And when your soil has warmed give your soil organisms and plants a treat by broadcasting an organic mix (I use Borden's Mix from Borden Mercantile in Victoria) and then mulch with a 2" or so layer of compost or bark mulch that has broken down for a year or so.

KEEP YOUR SENSE OF HUMUS!

Cheers Barb Kohlman



Upcoming Events

- **Dinter Seminars: Basic Fruit Tree Pruning, Sat 2 Mar, 10am.**
Demo of the basic pruning of fruit trees and small fruits, with Bernie Dinter.
Free, registration not required.
- **Dinter Seminars: Mason Bees in the Garden, Sat 2 Mar, 11:30am.**
Learn about bees and their needs in your garden with Steve, Busy Bee Creations
- **Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday, Sat 9 Mar 10am - 2pm**
Cobble Hill Hall, Watson Ave, Cobble Hill.
- **VIMG present "Moss Landscapes of Southwestern BC", Sun 10 Mar, 12:15 - 3pm**
Presentation by Dr Kem Luther followed by a 'moss walk'. Flyer attached to end of newsletter.
\$10.00 cash or cheque at the door. Parksville Community and Conference Centre, 132 Jensen Ave, Parksville BC. Space is limited - register for seminar and moss walk:
wendy.strachan1@gmail.com.
- **Native Plant Study Group Event: Rare Plants with James Miskelly, Fri 15 Mar 7pm.**
Topic: "Hiding in Plain Sight: Hidden Plant Diversity in the Victoria Area"
UVic MacLaurin Bldg, Rm D-288. For details, visit npsg.ca
- **HCP Workshop: Grow Your Own Cut Flower Garden, Sat 23 Mar 11am - 2pm.**
505 Quayle. With Eiddwen Thomas \$45 members/\$55 non-members. Details: <https://hcp.ca/event/grow-your-own-cut-flower-garden-workshop/>
- **VIHS Annual Heather Sale, Sat 30 Mar, 10am - Noon.**
Stu Armour Building, Fisher Road, Cobble Hill (around the corner from the Farmer's Institute).
Master Gardeners, Heather Pruning Demonstrations. See flyer attached to this newsletter. For more information, visit bcheathersociety.org
- **VIRAGS Annual Spring Flower Show, Fri 5 Apr 1pm - 8pm & Sat 6 Apr 9am - 3pm**
Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria. Admission by donation. Plant & seed sales, door prizes, silent auction, tea and more! For more info see flyer attached to this newsletter or visit www.virags.com.
- **HCP Workshop: Cannabis Basics for the Home Grower, Sat 30 Mar 1pm - 4pm.**
505 Quayle. With Jo Wyld \$60 members/\$65 non-members. Register: <https://hcp.ca/event/cannabis-basics-for-the-home-grower-2/>

Travel Broadens Your Plant Perspectives by Fran Benton

Whenever I return from tropical winter travel I reflect back on the plants and gardens I have seen. I dream up new approaches and plants to add to my garden. This drives my poor husband totally bonkers. He has to say repeatedly “No, you cannot grow zone 12 tropical plants in Mill Bay. It’s a zone 7 maybe even a zone 6”. For those who might be unfamiliar with the zone thing, it’s a way geographers and climatologists have to point



out that area’s temperatures and growing limits. The lower you go the colder it is. The higher you go the warmer it is. Being a big fan of lush tropical plants I always want to grow them here. Tropicals (and some cactus) cannot tolerate the extended cold damp weather that our ferns and conifers adore. I bet you have someone in your family who pushes the limits and then moans piteously when their beloved plant dies. Specifically I am thinking of cactus. Cactus can grow very well here. We have the prickly pear cactus growing on the gulf islands. So why does it die on our balconies here in Mill Bay? Aha! Prickly pear grows on the gulf islands right beside the sea because that is zone 9 and it rarely freezes solid over an extended period. In Tucson Arizona they actually cover some garden cactus in the coldest time of the year. It looks very odd.

This year we spent a week in the town of Volcano on the big island of Hawaii. Why? Volcano is jam full of tree ferns, my all time favourite plant. I so want to grow a tree fern. The local garden centre even sells *Dicksonia antarctica* (the Tasmanian Tree Fern). HOWEVER, and it’s



a big however, this fern must be protected by wrapping its crown over the winter and you better be prepared to spend quality winter time fussing with it. If the wrapping gets wet then the frost will penetrate the crown, freeze it and rot it. If the fern starts pinning for Tassie then it’s \$\$\$ to replace it. There is a reason they are fairly rare in our gardens. You need to be the fussiest gardener in the Mill Bay Garden Club to get old *Dicksonia* through every winter. Now several people come to mind that might just be fussy enough to do this but you will just have to come to a meeting to see who that is! We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Mill Bay Hall, 6:45 pm.

Minutes of the general meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club
7:00 P.M. Tuesday 22 January 2019 at the Mill Bay Community League Hall

1. Meeting called to order at: 7:00 P.M.
2. Acceptance of minutes of November 2018 meeting:

Moved: Norman Redcliffe

Seconded: Pip Woodcock

3. President's Report: Donna Kaiser

- Thank you for help at the Xmas party. We collected \$250.00 for the Food Bank.
- We still need someone to take on the Raffle table. Katherine Miller offered to share the job.
- Seedy Saturday is March 9th at the Cobble Hill Hall. We would like some more volunteers.
- Also, a reminder that Qualicum Beach holds a Seedy Saturday on February 2nd. Victoria February 16th and Sooke February 23rd. A Mixing it Up conference in Sidney February 2nd. BC Council of Gardens workshop? Extended Library still in the works.
- Christmas Gift has belatedly found its way to Dave Byrnes!
- Open Gardens. Ajay says his garden should be ready by the end of February. Others, please give it a thought.

4. Vice-President's Report: Bernie Juurlink

Bernie didn't have anything to report, but he did make a pitch for volunteers for the Flower & Garden Show.

5. Treasurer's Report: Marie Cooke

We have a balance of \$2074.84 and \$1500.00 in the bursary.

6. Secretary's Report:

Fran is away on holiday.

7. Membership: JoAnn Mulhern

JoAnn reports 3 new members, who were introduced and, a total of 137 members with 13 of them being Life Time Members.

Newsletter:

Dave Byrnes **had nothing to report.**

Website:

Gord Hamilton had nothing to report.

Facebook:

Pauline Dueck is on holiday.

Library: Janice Rose

Janice reports two new boxes of books – and gave us a list of the highlights.

Janice also gave an update on the bursaries. They are out at the schools and she is waiting for the applications. Last year's winner has yet to come forward to collect.

Kitchen: Pat Spezowka

Pat has circulated her list for volunteers and it has been filled.

Sunshine Girl:

Marie Cooke is filling in for Mary tonight. Cards have been sent to Barb Kohlman and Elaine Scott. Barb Kohlman updated members on Elaine's husband who fell while hiking.

Past President:

Ajay Oppelaar had nothing to report.

Raffle Table:

Personed by Dustin Carlson and Ajay Oppelaar tonight. The donations were a concrete dragon with gorgeous coloured egg, a copper bonsai on a rock, book on landscaping, miniature rose, seeds to grow for smoothies.

Members Forum:

Nothing.

Brag Table: Barb Kohlman

Barb described the January Surprises members brought in.

Questions and Answers:

Ajay Oppelaar took the floor for the questions.

Meeting broke for refreshments.**Tonight's Speaker: Dustin Carlson**

Dustin gave an excellent presentation on ornaments for and in the garden and some of his work in garden design.

THE VANCOUVER ISLAND
ROCK AND ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

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ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW



Fritillaria michailovskyi

FRIDAY, APRIL 5 - 1 PM TO 8 PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 6 - 9 AM TO 3 PM
PUBLIC SALE OF MEMBER DONATED PLANTS-
11 AM SATURDAY

Come to see rock and alpine, succulent, woodland and
wetland plants. There will be plant and seed sales,
door prizes, a silent auction, tea and more!

CADBORO BAY UNITED CHURCH
2625 ARBUTUS ROAD, VICTORIA
ADMISSION BY DONATION

Visit our website at www.virags.com
Or find us on facebook at vancouver island rock and alpine garden society

Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Present
Moss Landscapes of Southwestern BC



Featured Speaker
Kem Luther, MSc, PhD

Join with Vancouver Island Master Gardeners in welcoming Dr. Kem Luther author of *Boundary Layers* (Oregon State University Press, 2016). In this informative seminar, Dr. Luther will showcase Vancouver Island mosses and talk about their environmental and social roles as well as the role of mosses in lawns and on roofs.

You are invited to join Dr. Luther for a 'moss walk' after his presentation

March 10th, 2019, 12:15 — 3:00 pm

Parksville Community & Conference Centre

132 Jensen Ave., Parksville BC

\$10.00 cash or cheque at door

Space is limited, register for seminar & moss walk

wendy.strachan1@gmail.com



**Plants will be available
for purchase**



Vancouver Island Heather Society

Annual Heather Sale

Featuring:

- 4 different kits of 9 plants with planting plans
- Many tried and true varieties
- Rare and unusual varieties
- Tree Heaths
- Cassiopes (Mountain heather)



Looking for more information:
bcheathersociety.org

Master Gardeners

Heather Pruning
Demonstrations

Saturday
March 30th

Doors Open from
10am – 12noon

Stu Armour
Building

Fisher Rd.
Cobble Hill

Around the corner from
the Farmers Institute

