



# 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, March 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!**

## March Speaker:

**Phil Newton**

*Why I Grow Dahlias*

*See page 3 for details*



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# MARCH

## March Brag Table Theme

### *Esperanza de Marzo*

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!

## Meeting Helpers:

**Cookies/Snacks:** Angie Stanta, Dorothy Kennedy, Mary-Jean Morrison, Laura Ferreira

**Kitchen Helpers:** Norman Redcliffe, Gwen Redcliffe

**Set-up/clean up\*:** Louise Ketilson, Barb Kohlman

*\* please arrive by 6:30.*



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

## President's Report

Donna Kaiser

As I write, I was hoping to say welcome to spring, but my back yard is still covered with snow, and flakes were flying yesterday so I guess we have to wait a little. Where the sun has melted the show of little purple species crocus are saying hello, we're here for you.

Unfortunately the hellebores I don't think are going to fare so well. I don't think I will have much of a display this year. BUT STILL HOPE.

Seedy Sat was a very busy place — shoulder to shoulder people. We gave it our best at promoting the club and all the various plant sales and garden tours. Fun place to spend a Saturday morning talking to folks that are so ready to get in their gardens.

Off for a little fun in the sun in Mexico with two families but will be back and hope to see you all at the meeting on the 26th.

Cheers, Donna

## 2019 Flower & Garden Show

May 24th & 25th, 2019

The Flower & Garden show committee held a meeting this week. The Silent Auction crew report that donations are starting to come in. The Outside Vendors have signed up 13 participants. The Judges are organized. A sign-up sheet will make the rounds again at the general meeting to fill up some volunteer categories such as "gofers" and "runners".

*Thanks, Gill Keir*



# 72nd Annual Community Flower & Garden Show

By Fran Benton and Ajay Oppelaar

Even if your garden is no more than three pots at the front door, you will love your visit to the 72nd annual Mill Bay Garden Club's annual flower and garden show. This show has it all- great food, beautiful flowers, plants to purchase, garden vendors, and a huge silent auction. The garden show features a fierce competition in flower, fruit, and vegetable categories. Do you love your garden but are puzzled by its problems? Bring your garden problems to the master gardeners. Buy the newest and most attractive plants and flowers in the outside vendor area. As always there are plant bargains galore at the Mill Bay Garden Club's huge plant stall.

This year the Community Flower and Garden show will be held on Saturday May 25th from 9am till 2pm. The theme for this year's show is "Celebrate Gardening" and all design entries must follow the guidelines for this year's theme. 75 categories of flower, plant and edible classes round out the amazing show of color collected from gardens all over the Cowichan Valley. In years past almost 250 entries were registered! It's a real giant of a show!

This show directly benefits local charities. It also supports a bursary fund established by the Mill Bay Garden Club to provide financial assistance to qualifying local students entering higher education in agricultural and horticultural studies.

The silent auction has over a hundred items donated by artisans, sponsors, businesses, and club members. Last year's donations ranged from a truckload of primo bark mulch to an artist- created birdbath.

The South Cowichan Healthcare Auxiliary bakes up a delectable Strawberry Tea. Bring your appetite!

If you are the competitive gardener then enter our show! Entries for the judged classes will be taken on Friday May 24 from noon till 6:30pm. Entry fee is \$0.50 per entry with no limit on the number of entries you'd like to show in. Programs are available locally at Buckerfields, Thrifty Foods, Country Grocer, Dinter's Nursery or download it from our website [www.millbaygardenclub.com](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com)

Show Admission is \$2.00 for adults.

Be there or be garden deprived.





## March's Speaker:

### Phil Newton on Why I Grow Dahlias

#### Abstract

The talk will be on the basics of growing dahlias and why Phil grows Dahlias. There are lots of varieties, 15 different colours, 29 different forms, and fun to grow from seed to see what you get. With tubers and cuttings you get clones and with seeds you get "children" and you have no idea how they will turn out.



*Photo courtesy Norman Redcliffe*

## “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

Norman Redcliffe is donating about 20 packets of green pea seeds for \$2.00 a packet. Originally from Bill Herring. They are an heirloom variety that are prolific & tasty. Norm is also donating scarlet runner seeds. So bring your toonies!

We also hope to have more Alpaca Manure available for \$5.00 a bucket. Alpaca manure is a rich soil conditioner, improves soil quality & helps retain water. Besides fertilizing, it requires no ageing & is odorless. It can be spread directly on top of the soil without burning the plants. You can also make alpaca tea using 1/3 cup alpaca & 2/3 cup water. Let it sit overnight & water new seedlings. It can be layered in with compost, and deer don't like it, so can be a deterrent for them. We acquire our alpaca manure from Robinsons on Aros roads who generously donate it to us.

All the moneys we collect at the plant sales table goes directly to our general funds, of which much is given back to charities in our community. So.. bring your loonies, & plants & accessories (anything other gardeners might appreciate) & be part of this great gardening experience.

*your friendly plant sales team  
Monika Morgan & Sharon Martin*

### Membership

Since September 2018 nineteen new members have joined the MBGC!!! Of these 19, we welcomed Rob Calnan, Linda Joe and Sandra Van Vliet in January and Trisha Klus in February.

*JoAnn Mulhern*

### Notes from the Library

Finally our subscription to 'Birds and Blooms' has arrived. Open the Many thanks to Wendy and Al Mikalishen who will be helping our with the library while I am away in March.

Our new library space is progressing slowly as the CVRD cannot find a key for the cupboard at this time. Their search continues while we wait impatiently to move our collection in. C'est la vie!

*Your friendly librarian,  
Janice Rose*



## Gardening Tips for March-April 2019 by Barb Kohlman

Thought I would address the damage that the snow has done to our gardens now that it is receding and we can see the results.

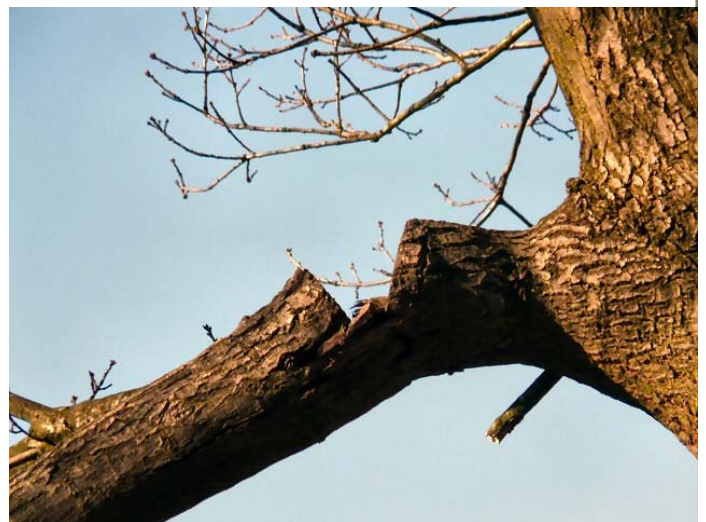
When repairing the damage:

- Prune cuts back to a larger branch, where the broken branch leads from.
- Cut to just outside the collar---don't leave a partial branch.



This avoids the ability of pathogens to enter the wound and allows the branch to compartmentalize at the proper cut and close off the vulnerable area.

In this picture (left), it would be just beyond the thick area to the left of the wound. Do a nice clean cut and let nature do the rest.



In the picture above right, this would be incorrect. Too far out into the branch and the “coat hanger” you have left cannot compartmentalize and pathogens will enter the wound and transfer down into the plant.

Cheers Barb Kohlman



## Prune Away Your Troubles by Fran Benton

Oh I love to prune! Get out those rusty secateurs, put on a bit of oil, a little rub on the old whetstone and off we go! My problem is, as always, one of misplaced time wasting enthusiasms. The difficulty with being a self-aware kind of person is that I KNOW my faults in the garden. I try to reason with myself too. This does not work because of one thing alone – gardening is fun. It's big fun, with colours and textures, new and curious plants, and lovely rich dirt. Now I could go on for hours about that lovely dirt but this is an investigation of pruning.

Most people do not know how to prune. Well duh, it's not like there is mandatory pruning school in grade 5! Fortunately for me I attended the master gardener training and learned how to prune properly. Although, and this is not a fabrication, Barb Kohlman (our instructor) had to tell me to share the bush I was pruning. I am a pruning hog but there is a reason. There is nothing so nice as stepping back from the pruning you just did and let out a most satisfied sigh.

Enough of the babble, how do you prune? First you need to understand what kind of plant are you pruning. Some plants are self-pruning and require nothing. Trees like our wonderful red cedar *Thuja plicata* needs nothing. Fruit trees however, need lots of pruning. Once again timing is king. Apple trees need to be pruned in late winter/ early spring. You need to follow a few rules. Take out all the branches that are dead or damaged. There will be a lot this year after Snowmagedon. Next, look for diseased branches- these will be misshapen, cankerous, cracked or blistered. You want to open the canopy up so lots of light and air gets into the tree. Try to take out excess branches or dumb looking ones that make no sense. You are looking for a vase shape. By the way those little short branches are the fruit spurs. Don't prune them off. The best advice I got in Pruning class was to be cautious. Prune in thirds. That is, one-third this year, one-third the second year and the last third in the third year. This way if you have a spectacular pruning fail you've only done it to 1/3rd of the plant! My parting word is about

roses. Prune roses when the Forsythia blooms, and prune them as if your worst enemy was pruning them. For exact instructions come and see the master gardener clinics at your local garden centres or check out the Mill Bay Garden Club 4th Tuesday every month at the Mill Bay Hall 6:45.

For further amusement I offer you a selection of Spectacular pruning fails...



**MORE SPECTACULAR PRUNING FAILS...**



**Happy Spring (Where's my breakfast?)**





## Upcoming Events

- **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](http://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](http://www.virags.com).
- **HCP Workshop: Meadowscaping for Biodiversity, Sun 7 Apr 1pm - 4pm.**  
505 Quayle. With Kristen Miskelly \$45 members/\$55 non-members. Details: <https://hcp.ca/event/meadowscaping-biodiversity-workshop/>
- **Volunteer Gardener's Plant Sale at Cairnsmore Place, Sat 20 Apr, 9am - Noon**  
250 Cairnsmore Street, Duncan. There will be hundreds of plants ready for planting, and this year there is a special focus on peonies. You will also find a fun selection of woodcrafted garden ornaments fabricated by our volunteers. All proceeds from this sale are spent on the gardens. Master gardeners will be on hand to answer your questions.
- **72nd Annual Mill Bay Garden Club's Annual Flower and Garden Show**  
Cobble Hill Hall, 3550 Watson Ave., Cobble Hill, BC. 9am-2pm, Saturday, May 25, 2019.  
This show has it all- great food, beautiful flowers, plants to purchase, garden vendors, and a 100+ items silent auction. The garden show features a fierce competition in flower, fruit, and vegetable categories. Do you love your garden but are puzzled by its problems? Bring your garden problems to the master gardeners. Buy the newest and most attractive plants and flowers in the outside vendor area. Enjoy a yummy strawberry tea. As always there are bargains galore at the Mill Bay Garden Club's huge plant stall.  
For more information, a brochure or entry forms e-mail [millbaygardenshow@gmail.com](mailto:millbaygardenshow@gmail.com) or go to [www.millbaygardenclub.com](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com).
- **Denman Island Home and Garden Tour, 15-16 June**  
See notice at end of newsletter.

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

7:00 pm Tuesday 26 February 2019 at

Mill Bay Community Centre

1. Call to Order 7:03

2. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes: 22 Jan. 2019

David Byrnes, Seconded Janice Rose

3. President's Report: Donna Kaiser

- Meeting order change
- Thank you to set up and kitchen crew
- Bookcase & trophy case: carpenter required

Donna showed everyone the new library cupboard. Janice's husband will fix the existing bookcase to fit into the cupboard. Thanks!

Need a carpenter that can make a frame box for our perpetual trophy.

- Seedy Saturday reminder

All jobs are filled for that event.

5. Treasurer's Report: Marie Cooke

\$2303. Is in the account. The Flower and Garden Show staff have purchased a laser printer for club publications.

7. Committee Reports:

a. Membership: JoAnne Mulhern

We have a new member Trisha, welcome

e. Raffle: Katherine

Some dandy things here. The grand prize -a yellow calla lily was won by Ajay.

f. Plant sales: Monica Morgan

The pregnant onion has had a baby

g. Flower & Garden Show: Gillian Keir, sign-up sheet

Gillian introduced her staff for the flower and garden show. They still need a sign person. Brochures were passed around for checking by members.

h. Library & Bursary: Janice Rose

There is a good plant propagation book that goes with tonight's talk



j. Sunshine: Mary Gale

She's baaaaaack! Mary will be sending two cards.

Members Forum – Caroline is working at Providence Farm. She spoke about the need for volunteers in St. Anne's garden. There will be meetings every Monday at 9 am

8. Brag Table: Barb Kohlman

Not much bragging going on, but there were snowdrops, sweet box, pussywillows, and Camelia debutant

9. First guest speaker: Barb Kohlman on plant cuttings. The second speaker was Elaine Scott on seeding.

13. Adjournment: 9:00p



# 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](http://bcheathersociety.org)

Master Gardeners

Heather Pruning  
Demonstrations

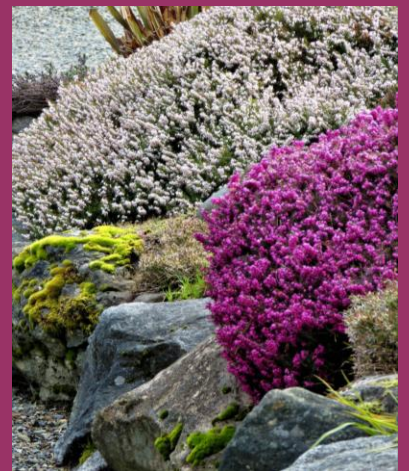
Saturday  
March 30th

Doors Open from  
10am – 12noon

Stu Armour  
Building

Fisher Rd.  
Cobble Hill

Around the corner from  
the Farmers Institute





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](http://www.virags.com)  
Or find us on facebook at vancouver island rock and alpine garden society



## **MILL BAY PLANTAHOLICS PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019**

Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9am to 2pm at 2836 Oceanside Lane Mill Bay (east off Trans Canada Highway at Kilmalu, south on Church Way, east on Welch Road, and south on Oceanside Lane). Proceeds from the sale will be divided between the Malawi Girls on the Move program (where the money will provide a scholarship for a young Malawian woman to complete her secondary school education) and Somenos Transition House – a program of the Cowichan Women Against Violence Society. A great selection of healthy plants will be available for purchase. Members of the Victoria Master Gardener Association will be on hand to answer general gardening questions. Cash or cheque only.



## Denman Island Home and Garden Tour June 15-16, 2019

Tickets are now on sale for this enchanting Tour, deemed by the Globe & Mail "one of Canada's top six horticultural events." Every two years this idyllic island throws open its garden gates, inviting the public for a rare up-close look at the creativity, skill and passion Denman residents pour into their properties.

The Denman Conservancy has declared 2019 to be The Year of the Wetland, and many of our extraordinary properties offer natural and man-made water features, creating complex, lively ecosystems. The famous Des Kennedy Garden is a major attraction again this year, and other highlights include an organic vineyard (with tasting room), a home build from creatively recycled components, a modern homestead and market garden, a couple of oceanfront west-coast architectural delights, and an island-style chocolate factory. Bloom lovers will not be disappointed, either - roses, lilies, and a whole host of other blossoms will be found in abundance.

This weekend event provides an unforgettable experience for lovers of gardens, homes and rural charm. Many people return year after year, and are never disappointed. Join them! Come for a day trip, or book into a cozy B&B and stay for the weekend.

Early bird tickets are \$18, and can be purchased online at <http://www.denman-conservancy.org/home-and-garden-tour>.



DENMAN  
CONSERVANCY  
ASSOCIATION

DENMAN ISLAND  
HOME & GARDEN  
TOUR

JUNE 15-16  
9:30am-5 pm

TICKETS \$18 (\$20 AFTER MAY 15)  
WWW.DENMAN-CONSERVANCY.ORG