



# MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.millbaygardenclub.com](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com)

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## Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, May 28, 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!**



## May Speaker:

**Bob Duncan**

*Growing Stone Fruits  
in South Coastal BC*

*See page 3 for details*

## May Brag Table Theme

### *May Oui, Eh?*

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:

**Break Time Treats:** Noreen Carver, Gwen Redcliffe, Deb Tustin, Laura Baird

**Kitchen Helpers:** Deb Tustin, Laura Baird

**Set-up/clean up\*:** Dinah Clark, Glenda Wilkinson, Barb Kohlman

*\* please arrive by 6:30.*



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



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## Vice-President's Report

Bernie Juurlink

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt" or so says Margaret Atwood and I think most of us would agree. There is nothing quite like going into the garden in the morning and seeing what seeds, that one has sown, are sprouting and what flowers are in bloom. Garden Club members are in tune with Ralph Waldo Emerson in that "The earth laughs in flowers".

Be sure to participate in the 72nd Annual Community Flower & Garden Show. The theme is 'Celebrating Gardening'. The set-up is on Friday May 24th and entries are accepted from noon till 6:50 p.m. on Friday. There are a total of 89 entry categories that fall into the following subdivisions: Cut Flowers, Potted Plants, Vegetables & Herbs, Seedlings; Design and Youth. The brochure outlining the 89 different specific entry areas can be found at: [http://www.millbaygardenclub.com/flower\\_\\_garden\\_show\\_may\\_25\\_2019](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com/flower__garden_show_may_25_2019)

The entries are judged Friday evening and the Show is open to the public on Saturday, May 25 from 9:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. Besides the flowers and vegetables on display there will be a Silent Auction, Mill Bay Garden Club Plants Sale and outdoor vendors selling garden-related items. The Silent Auction and Plant Sales give rise to most of the monies raised by your Club. The monies raised are then disbursed to a variety of local charities. So come on Saturday, bid on Silent Auction items, buy plants at our Plants Sale and keep the outdoor vendors happy.

Finally, Weedy Saturday was a success and the Community Hall Gardens are again kempt and beautiful. I thank the following people for giving up several hours on the first day of the long May weekend to weed the gardens at the Mill Bay Community Hall: Bobbie Burns, Pauline Dueck, Barbara Juurlink, Monika Morgan, Tracy Morris, Allan Murray, Gwen Redcliffe, Norman Redcliffe and Eleanor White.

*Bernie Juurlink*



## 2019 Flower & Garden Show

**May 24th & 25th, 2019**

Hello all. The last reminder to let the Silent Auction team know about your donations and that any flower donations should be delivered to Elaine Scott (see below).

**Thanks.**

*Gill*

## May's Speaker:

### Bob Duncan on Growing Stone Fruits in South Coastal BC

Our May speaker is Bob Duncan from Fruit Trees and More. His talk is entitled "Growing Stone Fruits in South Coastal BC". Stone fruits to be discussed include plums, cherries, peaches, apricots and nectarines.

Bob had a career as an entomologist and botanist. His wife Verna has a background in teaching and business. Together they developed 'Fruit Trees and More: Nursery and Demonstration Orchard' and have more than 45 years of experience growing fruit trees on the West Coast.

They have tested more than 500 different types of temperate, Mediterranean and citrus fruit trees. Indeed, they are pioneers in growing Mediterranean and subtropical fruit trees on the Island. Their orchard contains several hundred varieties of trees. For their customers Bob and Verna provide expert advice on growing such trees including siting, training and pollination.

## “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 will have 3 buckets of Alpaca pellets available. (\$5. a bucket) If more are needed let me know before our next meeting. Can get more. Most of your plant donations will probably have been donated at our plant sales at our flower & garden show may 25. Some magazines & a few books will also be available for next to nothing. See you then

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

### Membership

Thanks to all our members for inviting your friends and neighbours to join our wonderful garden club. Four new members joined at our April meeting:

Vinita Anand  
Martin Bedard  
Allan & Susan Cronkhite

A warm welcome to you all.

*JoAnn Mulhern*

### Notes from the Library

Any books borrowed from our collection in May are due in September. That means 4 months of reading in your lovely gardens (once all the work is done)!

Come and check out the new refurbished library cart. Many thanks to my husband Jim who did a superb job of fitting it into our new cupboard.

*Your friendly librarian,  
Janice Rose*





## **Mill Bay Garden Club Plant Sale by Elaine Scott**

MAY 25, 2019. 9:00 TO 2:00

AT THE COMMUNITY FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

Your Plant Sale Committee is hoping that you are having a great time potting up plants for the May, Mill Bay Garden Club plant sale. We kindly ask you to refrain from donating invasive plants. Sometimes you may not realize that your plants are invasive. The Committee will help you out and remove any plants from the sale that it considers invasive.

If everyone donated five plants each imagine what a great plant sale we would have. Last year we made \$1,170 which all went back to the community so it is for a great cause and assists the Mill Bay Garden Club in its goal to be a responsible member of our vibrant community.

The plants should be delivered to Elaine Scott's home on May 23 or the morning of May 24. If you need to deliver them earlier and she is not home just put them inside the vegetable garden gate so that no deer can get at them.

Also, please, please, please label your plants. It is very difficult to sell plants if we do not know exactly what they are. We try very hard to identify them but sometimes we are just unable to.

Your Plant Sale Committee thanks you.

## Fuku Bonzai by Fran Benton

I am a very fortunate person. I get to live in Mill Bay, I get to garden until I am exhausted, I get to travel, and I still feel excited to get up every morning. On a recent expedition to the big island of Hawaii I met a gentleman, David Fukumoto, who has had the worst gardening luck anyone could imagine. He owns a bonsai business and has been hit with a double whammy of troubles. He operates in the wet and lava prone part of the island. The lava stayed away but massive floods and a hurricane sunk his working sheds and display gardens. In this wet part of Hawaii many plants are affected by fungus and molds. Farmers spray fungicide to control the problems. Unfortunately that fungicide was contaminated with weedkillers and they lost a lot of plants. Through it all Fukubonzai has continued to operate.

I love bonsai and I wanted to see his collection in whatever state they were. His company name is Fuku Bonzai and you can check out more about them online. <http://www.fukubonsai.com/>. When we drove in, it was an amazing site! He does not follow traditional Japanese bonsai methods. In fact he dismisses this approach as unHawaiian. He feels traditional Japanese bonsai is too rigid and too obsessed with pine trees. Mr. Fukumoto opts for a true Hawaiian approach by using the common houseplant Schefflera. This plant grows happily outside in Hawaii, as do many other popular North American houseplants. Mr. Fukumoto takes his Schefflera and uses 3 styles to create his bonsai. They can be 'Sumo', which is short and stout, 'Roots', which has long exposed roots, and 'Dragon' which has twisting thick and thin roots. He achieves this by manipulating the plants with wire and pruning. The effect is glorious. He ships his plants worldwide. But not to Canada. Damn. If you go to the big island, go see FukuBonzai. The beauty of the plants and the hospitality of Mr. Fukumoto will amaze you.

So dear readers, you can tell where this article is going! I am going to buy some Schefflera and try his techniques. That way I can have indoor bonsai and I promise to report all the pratfalls along the way! Don't forget to shop at all the local church and community plant sales our area has to offer. Roadside plant stalls also have interesting plants. This is your opportunity to scoop great plant bargains and support our community.

## Upcoming Events

- **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.

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](http://www.millbaygardenclub).

- **Open Garden, 8 June 11am-1pm**

The next open will take place at the garden of Jim and Janice Rose .

**The club is still looking for open garden candidates! The theme is Gardens as They Are.**

- **Denman Island Home and Garden Tour, 15-16 June**

See notice at end of newsletter.

# Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting

7:00 pm Tuesday 23 April 2019 at Mill Bay Community Centre

1. Call to Order 7p.m.

2. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes: 26 March 2019

moved Al Mikalishen,seconded Dot Garbet

3. President's Report: Donna Kaiser

Thank you to set up and kitchen crew

Open Garden: Janice Rose June 8, 11-1:00, Dot June 8 2- 5 pm , Gwen

Redcliffe also volunteered

Library nearly complete, thanks to everyone for your help

Thank you from Cairnsmore Garden Sale, a very successful sale!

Al Mickalishun distributed the flower show volunteer list, needing one more judge assistant , photographer, Friday front desk person, please put phone number on the list.

4. Treasurer's Report: Marie Cooke

\$ 2578 in account \$1500 for bursary

5. Secretary's Report: Fran Benton

Fran mentioned the Grighmire's Pride tomato that is a good low acid variety for people who have trouble eating ordinary tomatoes.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Membership: JoAnn Mulhern

Five new members tonight, welcome!

d. Facebook: Pauline Dueck

Thanks to everyone who liked us on facebook!

e. Raffle: Katherine Miller

A hummingbird theme!

f. Plant sales: Monica Morgan

So much fantastic stuff to buy!

g. Flower & Garden Show: Gillian Keir

- Gillian mentioned the brochures for entry are available and silent auction items
- are moving along nicely! Kathy spoke about putting signs out on lawns a week
- before the show. Names must be given to match to the sign number so we



- don't lose any. Gillian showed us the Aggregate Winner Plaque, wow!
- h. Library & Bursary: Al and Wendy Mikalishen in for Janice Rose
    - Al showed us the new library in the cabinet, another wow!
  - i. Kitchen: Pat Spezowka
7. Brag Table: Barb Kohlman
  8. Ajay Oppelaar gave us a presentation about rules and preparation for entry to the flower show.
  10. Coffee and pastry Break
  11. Raffle
  12. Guest speaker: Bernie Dinter, "Spring Flowering Bulbs: Beyond Tulips and Daffodils"

## 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