



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Your presence is requested

MBGC Potluck Dinner and AGM

Tuesday, June 25th at 5:30 pm

This much-anticipated annual event will begin with our traditional potluck dinner, followed by the Annual General Meeting (see the President's Message inside for details of the AGM) and the Garden Hat Contest!

Spouses, partners, children... all are welcome to join us for the evening!

Should the weather turn inclement, the event will move to the Mill Bay Community League Hall — an email will be sent mid-afternoon on the 25th if we are moving to the hall.

Please arrive between 4:30-5pm for setup. Please bring the following items (especially chairs!): Potluck dish to share (with serving spoon); chairs; plates, cutlery, napkins, placemats; coffee cups; favourite beverage and glasses; your garden hat inspiration (see inside); a cash donation for the food bank; and a light jacket or sweater in case the heatwave passes.

Pulled pork and salmon, and coffee and tea will be provided.



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Potluck / AGM Notes

Directions and parking:

Volunteers:

- 4:30pm setup / Cleanup — Gill Keir, Gord Hamilton, Phil Le Good
- Tea / Coffee help — Pat Spezowka

Garden Hat Theme: **Beach Bonnet**

Get inspired! Make and wear a hat using materials found in your garden or home following the theme "Beach Bonnet".

There will be one prize for the best hat.



President's Report

Donna Kaiser

I cannot believe three seasons have passed and this is my final report of the year. What a great year it has been! Many thanks for all those who made taking on this new job so pleasant, and a special thank you to the Executive who guided me with such grace.

Our last Executive meeting was teeming with plans for the future and no small wonder for all that we accomplished this past year. Stay tuned!

The AGM will be at 5:30 pm on June 25th at Gill Kerr's cabin: 2591 Keir Road (off Mill Bay Road – not the home at 2595!). A potluck dinner is planned with salmon and pulled pork provided. Ajay is pulling the pork and Pat and Donna are supplying the salmon. Dinner served at 5:30 and remember to bring your own plate, utensils, glass and refreshment of choice. If the weather is poor, we will move the meal and AGM to the hall.

I hope all will be able to attend. Elections for all Executive positions will take place at the AGM potluck. The positions and nominees are:

President: Donna Kaiser

Vice President: Bernie Juurlink

Treasurer: Marie Cooke

Secretary: Fran Benton & Cliff Stainsby

Flower and Garden Show: Gill Keir

Membership: JoAnn Mulhern

Newsletter: Dave Byrnes

Website: Gord Hamilton

Library: Janice Rose

Kitchen: Kate Segall

Raffle: Katherine Miller & Stephanie Taylor

Plant Sales: Monika Morgan

Our treasurers have given us the final amount available for our community fundraising, and this will be announced at the AGM. This year's recipients are: CMS Food Bank, SPCA, Somenos House, Cowichan Hospice, Providence Farm and Clement Society for their flower and veggie garden.

We are also proud to announce that we will be funding a \$500 bursary for a post-secondary student to pursue education in Environmental Studies.

This leaves us with a comfortable balance from which to begin next year for both the Club and the Flower and Garden committee.

Great thanks to Bernie for lining up such interesting speakers this year. Truly a favourite part of our meetings for many.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you at the AGM, and then next fall.

PS: don't forget to bring money to the AGM for food bank donations

Sincerely,

Donna



Committee Reports

Speaker Notes from the Vice-President:

In May we had the last in a series of Garden Club speakers.

I hope everyone was pleased with the topics and speakers. I am working on getting speakers for next year. If anyone has a suggestion for a potential speaker please forward such information to me (see the sidebar to the right).

Bernie

From the Raffle Table

Our sincerest thanks to all those members who so kindly donated to our monthly raffle during the 2018-2019 garden club year!

The wide variety of items received always generated a lot of interest in the raffle table. And so a very big "THANK YOU!" to all those members who bought Raffle tickets!

You will be pleased to know that a net profit of \$581 was generated from ticket sales for the year!

Your Raffle Table Committee

Katherine Miller and Stephanie Taylor

“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)

Plant Table

Thank you all for another great donation year for the plant table. With all the contributions this year we collected over \$1,000. We would also like to again thank the Robinsons of Glacier Goldens & Alpacas for their generous donations of alpaca manure. This brought in about half of our income. These funds will go toward our community charitable donations.

We still have 3 buckets of alpaca manure if you still need some in the next couple of weeks. And please remember to bring your empty buckets back in September to be refilled. .

Hope to see many of you at the year end potluck, and happy gardening. Enjoy your gardens this summer. Perhaps some of your gardens are thriving with some of the contributed plants purchased (reasonably) at the MBGC.

Your friendly Plant Sales team

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

Membership

A big thank you to all those members who have contributed many volunteer hours, making this year a resounding success.

We end this season of 2018-2019 with 143 members! Thanks to everyone who has attended meetings, contributed questions, enthusiasm, expertise and friendly conversation to one another.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM on Tuesday June 25th.

JoAnn Mulhern

Thoughtful Notes from the Library

The latest sage advice from your MBGC Librarian:

“Don't read books during the summer! Get out and enjoy your garden!”

*Your friendly librarian,
Janice Rose*

Social Media

If you use Facebook, don't forget to check us out and "LIKE" us at:

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

*Pauline Dueck
Facebook Coordinator*



The Mill Bay Garden Club's 2019 Community Flower & Garden Show

Photos: Thanks to Norman Redcliffe



The Mill Bay Garden Club's 2018 Community Flower & Garden Show

Photos: Thanks to Norman Redcliffe



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2019 Community Flower & Garden Show Report

This year, even though the weather didn't cooperate, and attendance was down, the Outdoor Vendors got steady business, the Plant Sale had their best year and the Silent Auction raised \$4000 gross revenue.

The flowers and vegetables on display were lovely. Once again, a good show from the youth groups from Frances Kelsey Secondary and Evergreen Elementary schools. I'd like to congratulate the winners of the ribbons and rosettes: **Best In Show to Gwen Redcliffe for her dark-yellow bearded iris, Best In Show runner up to Judy Kubrak for her yellow tree peony, Outstanding Floral Design to Pat Spezowka and Shirley Bascinaro, Outstanding Cactus / Succulent to Nancy Doll, Any Pod Vegetable to Wendy Mikalishen, Outstanding Ferns (non-native) to Trinity Wolf.**

The Committee members and the Volunteers all put in a lot of work ensure the success of the show. I thank: Pat Spezowka for the advertising campaign; Mary Jean Morrison, Katherine Miller and Noreen Carver for gathering and organizing the Silent Auction items, and a special thank you to Megan O'Hara and Pat Spezowka for the extra help during the Auction preparation and the sale day; Heather and Nick Jenkins for organizing the Outdoor Vendors; Wendy and Al Mikalishen for organizing the Indoor Hall and volunteers; Dianne Munday and Janice Rose for taking care of finances; Barbara Juurlink for organizing the Judges and their luncheon; Bernie and Barbara Juurlink and Nick and Heather Jenkins for looking after the posters and brochures, and Kathy and Dan Muirhead for the signs.

I thank all the volunteers who volunteered during Set Up and Sale days and the Take Down at the end.

Thank you!

Gill Keir

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU FROM BARB KOHLMAN AND ELAINE SCOTT

Barb Kohlman and Elaine Scott would like to thank the Mill Bay Garden Club members for the gorgeous Calycanthus and card they each received from the Club.

These were received at a lovely luncheon at Ali Morris's home and attended by Noreen Carver, Ali Morris, Monika Morgan and Sharon Martin. It has been a pleasure for both of us to organize the annual plant sale at the Flower Show for the last 14-15 years. However it is time to hand over the reins.

Thank you one and all.

Barb Kohlman and Elaine Scott

Baking and Gardening by Fran Benton

I always thought that the worlds of gardening and pastry making have a lot in common. There are triumphant successes and epic fails in both. I am totally obsessed with making laminated pastry after watching the great Canadian baking show and the great British bake off. My success rate is very low but I do get to eat my successes and the Mill Bay seagulls get to eat my fails. Do you notice how plump those gulls are?

Gardening has the same kinds of successes but the rate is reversed. Mostly I do not have epic garden fails. When I do, I share them with you and I feel so much better about it. My most common fail is just plain clumsiness and lack of attention. I squash pots.

There, I said it and I already feel better about it. I have a small nursery and I am forever leaving alleyways between the rows of pots that are too narrow. All it takes is Mr. Big shouting out 'Its coffee time' for me to dive through the pots, lose balance and flatten some poor innocent fern. Then I have to repot it, apologize profusely, and remind my self to quit being so over enthusiastic about coffee. It's just a bean, come on Fran. Then of course was the time that I harassed fellow gardeners with my case of potato blight. OMG! All my potato plants had gone limp and brown and were drying up.

Umm, hate to admit this but Mr. Big had to say to me "Fran didn't you follow Bill Herring's advice and plant them in early March?" Um, yes I did, so that means, ah the potatoes are ready to be harvested now? Yes, apologies to fellow gardeners, there is no potato blight, no OMG, just someone who sort of forgot to make a note of when she planted things. So fellow readers! I want some interaction with you! Write and tell me of your most spectacular garden fails, especially if they are funny! Spare Cow Press the e-mail volume and just contact me directly at Fran.Benton@VIU.ca. I will compile them all, put them in an article, and I promise to keep your identity top secret!



Gardening Tips for June 2019 by Barb Kohlman

- Make sure your plants receive enough water as the weather warms up
- First crop of strawberries are ripe-YUM!
- Cut the scapes off your garlic, so the plant's energy goes into forming a large bulb (steam or stir fry the tasty scapes)
- Fertilize your potted plants regularly with a water soluble fertilizer (perhaps 20-20-20 on the annuals and fish fertilizer on the veggies)
- Don't forget to wear sunscreen while gardening!
- Deadhead ornamentals for a neater look to your garden – lots of material to build your compost pile
- On composting – make sure you water your pile to keep the creatures happy – moisture and air are important components of the composting process.
- Mulch garden beds to conserve moisture. It will be so important with our new tradition of hot summers.
- Take a glass of “ ” and sit out and enjoy your work!

Happy summer barb k



2019 Bursary Award!

The recipient of the Mill Bay Garden Club's \$500 bursary is Cheyenne Riggs.

Janice Rose and Ann Baty presented the bursary to Cheyenne at the Frances Kelsey Scholarship and Bursary Awards evening on June 12th.

Thanks to the Club for its generosity, and congratulations to Cheyenne!



Upcoming Events

- **Open Garden, Tuesday 25 June 2:30—4:30pm**

The next open will take place at Dorothy Kennedy's and Randy Bouchard's home at 2592 Mill Bay Road (across Mill Bay Road from Keir Road, site of the MBGC's AGM / Potluck which follows immediately!

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

- **Mill Bay Garden Club's Annual Potluck, AGM and Fancy Hat Contest**

2591 Keir Road, Mill Bay. For details see pages 1 and 2.

- **View Royal Garden Club, Wednesday 26 June - A Special 70th Anniversary Celebration.**

Edibles In The Garden (with Lindsay Lewis): As garden plots are shrinking, sometimes limited to patios or balconies, we still enjoy growing food. Visitors are welcome at our meetings. There is a \$5 Drop-In fee for non-members, but we hope you enjoy the meeting and will consider becoming a member. Individuals: \$15/yr.; Families \$20/yr. Contact us at 250-727-0076 or viewroyalgardenclub.wordpress.com.

- **The Gardens at Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, Wednesday 3 July**

Picnic in the Gardens at HCP. The Gardens at HCP is extending our hours every second Wednesday night starting June 5. We encourage families and friends to come and enjoy a lovely picnic on our grounds. Admission is by donation between 5 and 8 pm. Bring your own dinner and find a bench or lawn to enjoy your meal while enjoying the sounds of a local musician. Local arts vendors will be onsite and you can browse through their selection of goods or visit the Master Gardener booth with your garden related questions. Our plant sale area has a lovely selection of plants propagated by our volunteers from our garden and you might find a leafy friend to take home with you. The event will be posted on Facebook, please share amongst your friends. We encourage you to bring your sketch book, guitar, outdoor games – it will be a wonderful evening.

- **Visions Studio Tour, Fri-Sat-Sun 5-6-7 July, 10am-5pm.**

Not gardens per se, but open studios of local artists, some of whom are MBGC members! See <https://visionsarttour.ca> for locations throughout the Cowichan Valley.

- **Victoria Lily Society, Saturday 6 July 10am—4pm**

The Victoria Lily Society presents "Summer Scentsations" Flower Show, Plant Sale & Tea on Saturday 6 July from 10am - 4pm at Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Road, Saanich. Admission by donation.

Upcoming Events (Cont'd)

- **Victoria Water Garden Tour, Saturday 13 July, 9:30am—4:30pm.**

The Victoria Water Garden Tour 2019 (tentative - see www.watergardentour.ca) takes place on Saturday 13 July from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Visit 10 landscapes with water features and enjoy live music, work by local artists, refreshments, and talk with garden designers on-site. Tickets from Dinter's and other vendor locations at www.watergardentour.ca. Proceeds will support the work of "For the Love of Africa Society" in Tanzania.

- **The Gardens at Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, Wednesday 20 July., 9am—12pm**

Horticulture Centre of the Pacific presents Summer Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop, 9am-12pm. In this three hour workshop, certified arborist Ryan Senechal will provide an introductory summer fruit tree pruning instruction. Practical application is encouraged during the workshop. Learn how this traditional approach to pruning can reduce the burden of dormant season pruning as well as provide you with higher quality fruit. Secateurs are encouraged. HCP Members \$45 / Non-Members \$55. To register, call 250 479 6162

- **The Gardens at Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, Wednesday 20 July, 1pm—4pm**

Horticulture Centre of the Pacific presents Plant Identification and Culture Workshops are ongoing and run one Saturday a month from 1pm - 4pm; next workshops are 20 July, 17 August (a field trip-please register), and 14 September. Diane Pierce will introduce you to 25 new plants in each session. You will learn Latin & common names, plant descriptions, cultural requirements, general maintenance and landscape uses. This is an ongoing course & can be joined at any time. HCP Members \$35 / Non-Members \$45. To register, call 250 479 6162.

Mill Bay Garden Club

Annual General Meeting June 26, 2018

Hosted in the delightful garden of Janice & Jim Rose. A delicious (as always) potluck proceeded the meeting.

Meeting called to order approximately 7:30 pm, chaired by outgoing president, Ajay Oppelaar. Meeting minutes taken by Pauline Dueck.

Door Prizes presented by Cori-Lee Fisher

1. Luciano Corvelo
2. David Morgan (Monika's husband)

"Top Heavy" Garden Hat Winners

1. Monika Morgan
2. Carmen Stanek
3. Ruby Armour (who wore the hat from her wedding day).

New Life Memberships presented by Pip Woodcock

Janice Rose

Monika Morgan

Cliff Stainsby

Bill Herring thanked members for tending his garden.

Acceptance of 2017 AGM Minutes: 1. Mary Gale 2. Dianne Munday

Monika Morgan noted that there should be some corrections on the elections slate.

Committee Reports

Membership – JoAnn Mulhern

140 members, 17 life members

Flower & Garden Show – Gillian Keir

See full report available in MBGC June Newsletter

Raffle – Cori-Lee Fisher

\$462.10 raised by the raffle this year.

Plant Sales – Monika Morgan

\$915.00 raised by plant sales this year.

Kitchen – Mary-Ellen Dueling

\$432.70 raised by coffee break donations

Bursary – Janice Rose

\$500 bursary presented June 13 at the Francis Kelsey graduation to a student entering the horticulture program at Camosun College. Criteria will be tweaked for next year.

Newsletter – no report

Website – no report

Library – Janice Rose

11 boxes of books were donated from Wendy Porteous

Facebook – no report

Historian – Mary Gale

Many cards of encouragement were sent to members this year.

Past President – no report

Treasurer – Marie Cooke

Acceptance of financial report: 1. Janice Rose 2. Dot Garbet

\$1000 being directed to operating for next year.

Executive committee has approved \$4000 in donations to be divided as follows to Cowichan Valley organizations:

- CMS Food Bank \$1000
- SPCA \$250
- Providence Farm \$500
- Cowichan Valley Family Life \$500
- Somenos Transition House \$500
- Hospice Society \$750
- MBGC Bursary \$500 (for a total of \$1000 for next year)

President's Report – Ajay Oppelaar

Many thanks to all the committees and their volunteers. See full report available in MBGC June Newsletter.

Janice Rose formally thanked Ajay for stepping into the role of president for this year.

Elections for 2018 □ 2019

Nominations for the following positions were presented by Pip Woodcock and accepted unanimously:

- President Donna Kaiser
- Past President No acting past president
- Vice□President Bernie Juurlink
- Treasurer Marie Cooke
- Membership JoAnn Mulhern
- Secretary Fran Benton
- Facebook Pauline Dueck
- Web Page Gord Hamilton
- Newsletter David Byrnes
- Plant Sales Monika Morgan

Library Janice Rose
Kitchen Pat Spezowka
Raffle Cori-Lee Fisher
Historian Mary Gale
Flower & Garden Show Chair Gillian Keir

Meeting adjourned by incoming president, Donna Kaiser.