



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, September 24th, 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!



September Speaker:

Donna Balzer

Growing Under Cover

The talk will deal with how to get the best results from peas to potatoes and lettuce to lemons.

See page 3 for details

September Brag Table Theme:

Still Blooming

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!

Inside...

- President's Report p 2
- This Month's Speaker p 3
- Executive/Committee Reports p 3-4
- News etc p 5
- Barb's Gardening Tips p 6
- Upcoming Events p 7-8
- Fran Benton's Column p 9
- May mtg minutes p 10-11

Kitchen Duties:

A volunteer sign-up sheet for kitchen duties will be passed around at the September meeting. Please consider helping out next time when it comes your way!



DON'T FORGET!
Bring your mug
for coffee/tea!

President's Report

Donna Kaiser

I had a wonderful summer bookended with some exquisite garden-viewing opportunities in the UK and France. Returning to my own garden this week and taking stock of the successes there, I found there was so much to be thankful for.

Another club year on the horizon, and this one looks to be as exciting as the last. The September 24 meeting will undoubtedly be busy with everyone renewing memberships and friendships. Doors open at 6:30 pm and JoAnn Mulhern will be ready to take membership payments at that time. Meeting begins at 7pm.

It would be helpful if you have the exact membership amount (\$10). Cash or cheques payable to Mill Bay Garden Club.

Looking forward to seeing you all,

Sincerely,

Donna



Annual General Meeting 2019!

The AGM was held in the yard of Dave and Gill Keir in Mill Bay. It was a lovely evening; little wind, lots of sun.

The set-up crew made short work of the table placements and then the table cloths went on. Donna Kaiser bought a bouquet of flowers for each table.

The pot luck dishes, to complement the Salmon By Donna and the Pulled Pork By AJ, were varied and delicious. We were in luck, as the wasps had not yet come out in full force, only a few buzzed around.

The election of the Board for 2019-2020 was held and will be part of the minutes to be approved at our meeting September 24th.

A bidding war broke out over the orphaned items from the Flower & Garden Show's Silent Auction amid much laughter and banter. The door prize, a lovely garden ornament made and donated by Dustin Carlson, was won by Norman Redcliffe.

The hostess was thrilled with the gift of a gardenia, in bloom. Despite her previous failings with gardenias, this one has survived, and filled the yard with its divine scent all summer.

And generous Garden Club members dropped an amazing \$275 in the donations bin! The contributions will be donated to the Food Bank.

September's Speaker:

Donna Balzer on “Growing Under Cover”

The talk will deal with how to get the best results from peas to potatoes and lettuce to lemons.

Donna Balzer has a BSc in Agriculture, specializing in plant science and horticulture from the University of Alberta. She was a horticulturist at the Calgary zoo for many years, has taught horticulture at Olds College, and has written a number of books including “Gardening for Goofs”, “Prairie Rock Garden” and “No Guff Vegetable Gardening”. She has given many talks, is Guest Expert on CBC Calgary Radio and was co-host on the television series “Bugs and Blooms”. Donna now lives in Qualicum Beach.

Committee Reports

Plant Sales

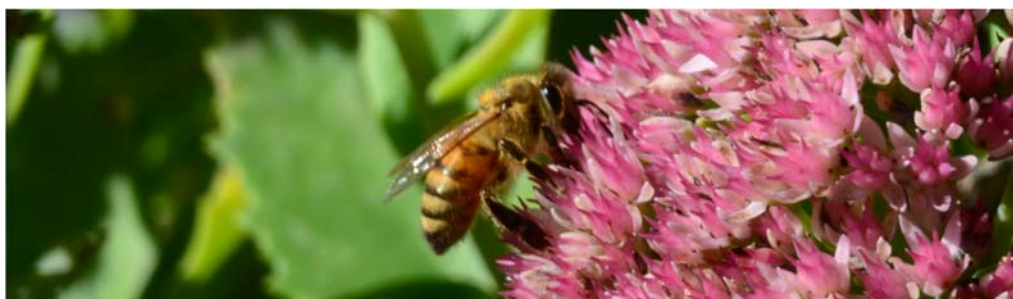
Hi all. It's time to get out in our gardens & get to work again. We have our alpaca gold available again for \$5. a bucket (actually now in bags.) I will only bring a couple so if you are interested, email me & I'll make sure to bring extra.

Have you some extra harvest to share, or if you've started splitting your plants, we'd love to see them on the plant sales table.

Last year we raised \$1,000 from our plant sales. There are no costs involved. Everything we receive come from generous gardeners. All our extra funds go right back into our community to very worthwhile needy causes.

See you on Sept 24.

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



Committee Reports (Cont'd)

Notes from the Library

A record number of books were taken out for summer enjoyment in 2019. Please remember to return all borrowed books at our September meeting. Dust off those books and get them back!

If you wish the MBGC to purchase a book or publication please let Janice Rose know (see Committee Lead details in the sidebars). New gardening ideas, strategies and topics must be updated regularly in our collection. This is your library and it should meet your needs.

*Your friendly librarian,
Janice Rose*

Membership

Welcome to a new season of monthly meetings! We will open the doors a few minutes earlier than is customary in order to facilitate the renewal of membership and the registration of new members.

Please come prepared to contribute the modest, yet invaluable, fee of \$10 before the meeting is called to order, or, during the break. Marie will take your money and I will note any changes in your address (street or email) or phone number. I will also be registering new members' contact information.

.JoAnn Mulhern

From the Raffle Table

Thank you to all the members who donated items to the raffle table at our monthly meeting last year. We encourage more donations this year. Please feel free to bring in new, or like new items. They don't have to be garden themed, but that is always a bonus. If you are going to donate baking (we love that!), please contact Katherine or Stephanie in advance, so we can coordinate the offerings.

Thank you and see you at the next meeting.

Katherine and Stephanie

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*



All the News That's Fit (That Fits)

Member Focus - An Appreciation

Submitted by Norman

MBGC has a lot of talented members, and my wife Gwen and I would like to publish a compliment to one of them, Dustin Carlson.

Dustin is not only the father to two young daughters who sometimes come to our meetings with their mum, he is an expert on edible fungi, He also gifts the Club with samples of his copper wire ornaments and the concrete figures he makes.

In brief then; Gwen and I installed a sunken 8'X4' fiberglass pond moulding in our back garden seven years ago. All went well for two years and then we noticed the winter water table was forcing it out of the ground, and breaking it's cedar boarded surround.

At the last MBGC Flower Show, we looked at Dustin's larger concrete tubs and decided to replace our delinquent pond by two surface mounted tubs and a birdbath.

Dustin visited our garden to look at the

task, and even removed the base of our fiberglass pond to stop any further tendency for it to "float". He also recommended a method to install foundations to support the two tubs we had selected, each of which weighed 350 Lbs unladen!

He cast the tubs we chose and a few days later not only delivered them but he also helped us put them in place on the foundation pedestals we had built.

Words don't do the job adequate justice because it looks really terrific; one tub contains a fountain and the other a raised flower bed, with a birdbath mounted in between them.

Thank you Dustin.

Norman and Gwen Redclife

"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.



Gardening Tips for September 2019 by Barb Kohlman

- September can be the driest month of the year. Keep up with watering, as well as other garden chores.
- Early fall is an excellent time to plant perennials, container trees and shrubs, and roses. Do the planting on a cool, overcast, or rainy day to prevent heat stress.
- For best selection, buy bulbs as soon as you see them in stores. Keep in a cool, dry place until time for planting in October.
- Repair the Lawn -- In cooler regions, September is also an excellent month to reseed and repair lawns. You'll need to water as often as daily until the seed has sprouted and established.
- It's also a good time to add fall color to the garden with variegated sages, euphorbias, ajugas, winter pansies, and ornamental kales and cabbages.
- Stop fertilizing of roses and perennials. It will only encourage tender new growth that will get zapped this winter.
- Whack Your Weeds -- Although this time of year it's tempting to forget about weeding, keep up with it. There's an old saying about weeds that one year's seeding means seven years' weeding.
- Deadheading 101 -- Even now, keep deadheading! You'll have more flowers longer, not to mention a nicer-looking garden.
- Bird Feeding -- Fall is the time overwintering birds establish their food sources. If you haven't already, put out your bird feeding equipment.



Cheers – barb k

VANCOUVER ISLAND HEATHER SOCIETY

**ANNUAL PUBLIC PRESENTATION
SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 2019
2:00 - 4:00 PM
MASONIC HALL, MILL BAY**

HECTOR BUSSIERE

"TWENTY OF THE BEST PERENNIALS, SHRUBS AND SMALL TREES TO PROVIDE GREAT COMPANIONS FOR YOUR HEATHERS"

Hector Bussiere is a well-known Victoria-based Horticulturist and expert gardener. Rather than a digital presentation, he will present large samples of the plants he will be discussing. A handout of the plants that will be discussed will be available electronically on the Vancouver Island Heather Society website at

<https://www.bcheathersociety.org/> prior to the meeting.

This presentation is offered by the Vancouver Island Heather Society as a service to the community and will, therefore, be free.

Anyone wishing to become a member of the Society will be able to pay their membership fee and receive a membership package at the meeting.

Upcoming Events

- **The Victoria Master Gardener's Association have forwarded a community calendar**, full of listings, not only of local garden clubs and society meetings, but also farmer's and street markets throughout the south island. Click [here](#) to visit the calendar.
- **Get Rooted! British Columbia Council of Garden Clubs 2019 Fall General Meeting, Saturday October 26, Burnaby BC.**
Register at www.eventbrite.ca. (Search for "Council of Garden Clubs if the link does not take you there!) Earlybird Discount closes September 30th!

2019 Fall General Meeting British Columbia Council of Garden Clubs

October 26, 9 am — 3:30 pm
Bonsor Recreation Complex
6550 Bonsor Avenue
Banquet Room, Second Floor
Burnaby, BC V5H 3G4

Our fall meeting will feature Dr. Richard Hebda who will be speaking on the topic of climate change and how it impacts gardeners. We will also have two opportunities to join a mini-workshop that will help your organization grow. We will be featuring several new vendors, inspiring floral displays throughout the hall, and new this year—our eco lunch (bring your own place setting: prizes for the most creative!)

More information will be presented in the next newsletter to be sent out on October 1st.

Saturday Seminars at Dinters

- **Principles of Composting. 28 September, 10am**
Make backyard compost that will keep your garden healthy. Instructor: Bernie Dinter.
- **Apple Tasting from Local Growers. 5 October, 10am**
Sample apples to select varieties suited to your garden. Instructors: Sarah & Pat of Dinter's
- **Cuttings and Propagation. 12 October, 10am**
Save your favourite plants by cuttings. Led by Delia, Dinter's Greenhouse Manager
- **Fall Bulbs for Spring Colour. 19 October, 10am**
Learn how to plant a beautiful spring garden. Led by Sam Van Noort, Van Noort Bulb Co.

Phone 250-748-2023 or email info@dinternursery.ca to register

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Upcoming Events (continued)

Horticulture Centre of the Pacific Events (sign up at hcp.ca)

- **Grow Your Own Cut Flower Garden - Fall. Saturday 29 September, 11am-2pm**
Instructor: Eiddwen Thomas Eiddwen Thomas, floral designer and owner of Cantref Gardens will teach participants about flowers, grasses, herbs, and foliage for making gorgeous fall arrangements. HCP Members \$55 /Non Members \$60.
- **Cannabis for the Homegrower: Harvesting and Processing. Sun 29 Sep, 1pm-4pm**
Instructor: Jo Wyld You've grown your cannabis, now what do you do? In this workshop, we will explore the myriad ways to prepare your cannabis for personal use. HCP Members \$60 /Non Members \$65.
- **Advanced Pruning. 2 Saturdays, 5 & 12 Oct, 9am-12pm**
Instructor: Ryan Senechal Are you a hands-on gardener hesitant to prune small trees and shrubs in fear of injuring or undesirably altering them? This course with certified arborist Ryan Senechal will give you the skills you need to successfully prune your garden. HCP Members \$90 /Non Members \$110.
- **Backyard Beekeeping - The First Year. Sun 6 Oct, 9am-12pm**
Instructor: Gordon Mackay This workshop will focus on the beginner beekeeper who is planning on setting up a hive in the spring, or for those that have had bees for a year. HCP Members \$25 /Non Members \$35.
- For details on these and many more courses, visit The Horticulture Centre of the Pacific at www.hcp.ca.



Anne, my lovely rosemary, bites the dust

by Fran Benton

Oh such a sad death to watch one of your favourite plants slowly turn yellow and pass on to the big nursery in the sky.

But what killed Anne? This is where we all need to be sleuths and track down the culprit(s). Here are the facts. Anne was 12 years old. That's old for rosemary.

Anne was moved two years ago and had a big root pruning. Anne lives in the June beetle larva zone. There is also phytophthora root rot in my yard.

I overwatered Anne because she looked like she was drying out. Rosemary hates warm moist soil. Phytophthora loves it. Now I am getting depressed. So on a higher note I will remember Anne as having flavored so many soups and stews. In her days of leafy abundance she donated her extra sprigs to a local bistro. Anne annoyed the local deer. Deer do not like the pungent flavour of rosemary. That makes her a queen!

I decided to look up a bit more about rosemary. It turns out the name comes from "rosmarine". Ros comes from the word "dew" and marinus refers to the sea. Put together, the word means "dew of the sea". It originated along the Mediterranean coast where it grows wild. Now it grows well here too as long as it gets full sun, perfect drainage, and relatively poor soil. The Ancient Greeks really loved rosemary for its culinary, aromatic, and medicinal uses. Rosemary is often associated with remembrance and as such has been used in funeral bouquets, wreaths, bridal bouquets, and boutonnières. Churches burned it as incense and hospitals burned it to purify the air. Wonder if it works on smelly running shoes?



In conclusion to "what killed Anne?" I would say Anne was an old plant that got chewed on by grubs and had a bad case of phytophthora root rot. Damn... back to the nursery! Although I will not replant the new Anne in the same spot!

You know the routine! Mill Bay Garden Club is back meeting the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:45 pm at the Mill Bay Hall. Bring your show off stuff for the brag table!

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB GENERAL MEETING

7:00 pm Tuesday 28 May 2019 at

Mill Bay Community Centre

1. Call to Order 7 pm
2. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes: 2019
Moved Norm Redcliffe, seconded Janice Rose
3. President's Report: Donna Kaiser
 - Thanks to kitchen and hall set up staff!
 - We still need a replacement for Pat
 - The AGM is at the end of June; all information is in the newsletter
4. Vice President's Report: Bernie Juurlink
 - The guest speakers for next year are all lined up
 - Thanks to Millennial Garden crew – 10 people turned up
5. Treasurer's Report: Marie Cooke
There is \$2791.49 in our chequeing account and \$1500 in the bursary account.
6. Committee Reports:
 - a. Membership: JoAnn Mulhern
 - There are 2 renewed members –welcome back!
 - b. Newsletter: David Byrnes
 - There have been some bounce backs in the newsletters, please check your e mail
 - The Visions Cowichan artists tour is soon, please support it.
 - c. Facebook: Pauline Dueck
 - Thanks for the likes on facebook
 - d. Raffle: Stephanie Taylor and Katherine Miller
 - Lots of great items, tickets are 3 for a dollar.
 - e. Plant sales: Monica Morgan
 - Plants books and lots of stuff!
 - f. Flower & Garden Show: Gillian Keir
 - A jacket was returned to its owner
 - Excellent plant sales in spite of the rain!
 - Tea went very well.
 - Al and Wendy Mickalishun did a great job – thank you!
 - Silent auction went well too

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g. Library & Bursary: Janice Rose

- Ajay contributed a cannabis-growing book. Membership reaction? Hahahahahahahahahahaha!
- Lots of new books and magazines
- \$211 made from book sales at the Garden Show.
- Bursary news- the student has been selected for the bursary. Janice will be presenting it in June.
- Janice introduced the idea of changing the nature and name of the millennial garden into a memorial garden. Much discussion ensued including Bill heering speaking about the origins of the millennial garden
- There was enthusiastic endorsement from the members for this idea. General consensus that we need to strike a committee to handle this and refer it to the executive in the meantime.

h. Kitchen: Pat Spezowka

- June is Pat's last month before she leaves the country. Please we need a volunteer to run the kitchen

i. Sunshine: Mary Gale

- Mary told us she sent 3 cards this month.

7. Members Forum

- There was a discussion about the return of the winter moth and garden problems it is causing. The suggested solutions were to use BTK, tree tanglefoot trunk banding, and dormant oil in February
- There were questions about the large number of mushrooms in someone's garden.
- There was also a discussion about espaliering apple trees to form a fan shape rather than the horizontal bars.

8. Guest speaker: Bob Duncan

- Bob Duncan from 'Fruit Trees and More' spoke on stone fruit tree varieties, care and maintenance.

13. Adjournment: 9:00p