



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, October 22nd, 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!



October Speaker:

Brandy Galleghar

Gardens as a Part of a Sustainable Ecosystem

See page 3 for details

October Brag Table Theme:

Oktoberfest: Anything in a Stein (the Sequel)

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: Dot Garbet, Noreen Carver, Pauline Dueck, Kathy Code, Gayle Volker, Megan O'Hara

Kitchen Helpers: Anela Witherspoon, Gill Keir, Kathy Muirhead

Set-up/clean up*: Al and Wendy Mikalishen, Ron and Anela Witherspoon, Barb and Bernie Juurlink

** please arrive by 6:30.*

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



President's Report

Donna Kaiser

October 2019

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. I returned from my walk in the woods this morning grateful for the fall colours and the celebrations this changing season provides.

This week's frost has put an end to the flowering season for many of my plants. There is a fair amount of dark-brown and sodden vegetation about my garden which can be a little depressing. The compost heap is looking up though!

But the rotting vines produced an abundance of squash, and my children and grandchildren appreciated the resulting pumpkin pies and cookies, and even my son visiting from Australia

went home with two favourite family recipes to share down under.

We are in need of extra help from club members for kitchen duties at meetings. Kate has offered to set up tea & coffee before the meeting, but we need another 2-3 volunteers to help serve during the break, and another 3-4 to help clean up before the guest speaker begins. This way we should all be able to get the work done quickly, to enjoy and participate in club events, and to leave at a decent hour.

Looking forward to seeing you all,
Donna

“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.



Sadly, Mary is out of commission this month, having broken her ankle. If you would like to send—and I'm sure Mary would like to receive—a get well card, please bring it along to the general meeting on October 23rd, and we will see it gets delivered to her.

If you would prefer to send Mary a card in the post, contact the newsletter at mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com for Mary's address, or ask Janice Rose or Nick Jenkins at Tuesday's meeting.

October's Speaker:

Brandy Gallagher on

“Gardens as a Part of a Sustainable Ecosystem”

Abstract

O.U.R. Ecovillage, located on Baldy Mountain, is a 25-acre working farm and educational demonstration site that specializes in natural building, organic & permaculture food production, and sustainable living. A guided tour of this Ecovillage will be conducted on Saturday, October 26, 2019. A sign-up sheet will be distributed during the meeting for those interested in going on the tour of the Ecovillage. More information can be found at:

<https://ourecovillage.org/visit/>

Committee Reports

Plant Sales

October: A wonderful month to reap our harvests & enjoy the wonderful colors. Have you some harvest to share? Some perennials you've split & can share?

We should have a couple of asparagus plants on the table (thankyou Heather Jenkins:) Anymore rhubarb plants out there to share?

We plan to have more alpaca gold available to add to your gardens. (\$5. a bag-5gal size.) See you at MBGC Octoberfest Oct 22!

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

Notes from the Library

Please come and check out our library! It has become an extensive collection on many garden related topics. However, it is possible we are missing a book on a topic near and dear to your heart. All requests for new material are welcome.

We have many 2018-2019 OVERDUE books!!! Please turn your homes inside out and return them ASAP!

*Your friendly librarian,
Janice Rose*

Committee Reports (Cont'd)

Membership

We warmly welcome 12 new members: Jill Bell, Donna Birtwistle, Susan Collacott, Nancy Doll, Geraldine Finch, Doreen Hodgins, Connie Millar, Mike Mills, Grant Morris-Jones, Mike Rybchuk, Gayle Volker, and Trinity Wolfe.

Thanks to the many who renewed their membership in September. Those who haven't yet done so, please pay the \$10 annual fee to Marie (Treasurer) at the October meeting. Marie will be happy to give you this year's membership card in exchange for the cash. This membership card enables you to receive valuable discounts at specific garden related retail businesses.

Then check with JoAnn to ensure that we have your current email address (or you won't get the newsletter!)

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

*Pauline Dueck
Facebook Coordinator*



Mid Island Floral Art Club—Nov 14 meeting in Qualicum Beach

Mid Island Floral Art Club meeting "All inclusive design" Thursday November 14

2:00 St Stephen's Church Hall, 150 Village Way

Garden Gifts by Fran Benton

Who doesn't love a lush tropical plant that will grow outside in the summer and look lovely? I bought such a plant two years ago and it died. Then I bought it again because I forgot that it died before and guess what? It died again. So why would anyone be surprised when at the height of garden buying lunacy in late April I buy the same damn plant again. So let me guess- you are sitting there on your sofa reading this, enjoying your favourite beverage, and you are saying – that lady is a bit of a dope! Yup! I suffer from the dreaded disease "plant optimism". But this year the tropical gods smiled on me and it didn't die. Yahooo! And what a plant it is! It's an apricot coloured Brugmansia or Angel's trumpet. I saw one for sale at the Mill Bay Garden Club's show and sale in the spring. Before I knew it the Brugmansia was in the back of my car. Why? Plant optimism!



Brugmansia originates in the Andes, but sadly is no longer found in the wild. The good news is that it is easy to cultivate. It cannot live outside over the winter as the cold and wet will rot it. It can be brought inside in the winter and sprouts readily from cuttings taken in the fall.

A word of caution – it is horribly poisonous, so growing it around small children and pets might be dangerous. I don't touch it unless I have gloves on.



So what do you need to grow one? You need plenty of light, plenty of water, and plenty of fertilizer. I worried about spider mites that murdered the last few plants. Spider mites like areas of very still air. So I moved it to a spot where there is a good breeze. Success! By the way, most people grow this plant in a big fat plastic pot. That makes it easier to move around and bring inside in the winter. One of my neighbours cuts hers back and stores it in her

garage over the winter. In the spring they will appreciate fresh soil with lots of well-rotted compost. The last word on Brugmansias? They smell heavenly!

Minutes

MBGC General Mtg.

Sept. 24, 2019

Call to order:

7:02pm

President's Report

Minutes of May General Mtg. moved and seconded

Discussion:

correction to the minutes: not all speakers for the year have been lined up (*note: they have not been shot either*)

M/S/C

thanks extended to the kitchen crew (*they would have preferred money*)

a sign up sheet for helpers for the next meetings was circulated

Moved by Norman, seconded by Ajay

for all those who opt in, phone numbers and emails will be available for each other

M/S/C

(*during the discussion the VP practiced his comedic chops, much appreciated by all, he will be appearing on Laugh's Out Loud next Tuesday at 7:00 pm on your favourite station*)

Vice-President's Report

No report

Treasurer

Our balance is \$2181.01

we have an additional \$500 in our bursary fund

Secretary

No report

(*obviously mimicking the VP*)

Membership

6 new members were signed up and introduced

the membership secretary gave a number for total club memberships, (*but the useless secretary missed the information and is clearly unfit for the job; in fact he was so bad last time he had the job that we got rid of him, why is he allowed back?*)

Newsletter, Website, Facebook

Each with no report

(*it appears that mimicking the VP has cachet*)

Raffle

Told the assembled of the various valuable prizes to be raffled off at the break;

encouraged people to consider donations for future meetings

...Continued on next page

Plant Sale

A number of plants were available (*strange that, for a garden club meeting*)

Library

The Librarian thanked people for bringing books back

3 new magazines are available

Bursary

Cheyenne Riggs from Kelsey High won this year's bursary

the Bursary Committee will discuss whether a person can win the Bursary more than once

It is not obvious why this came up at this time, but

the issue of care of Memorial Gardens arose and discussion was deferred to the Executive
(*somehow the Executive gets to exert its power and decide all the important matters*)

Sunshine

Mary was unable to make the meeting so yet another 'no report'

Members' Forum

Elaine Scott thanked the people who managed and worked the Plant Sale Table at the CF&GS

announced an event coming up on Thanksgiving Weekend between 2&4pm, and it is free,
however what it is about didn't catch the ear of your problematic Secretary

Donna Kaiser announced a sale the weekend of the 28th of Sept at St. Peter's Church

art works will be sold

Brag Table

Barb Kohlman did her usual sterling job

Speaker

Donna Balzer did a very entertaining presentation on 'Growing Under Cover'

Adjourn

At precisely 1hr and 59 minutes after the Call to Order