



# MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.millbaygardenclub.com](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com) Email: [mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com)

## Next Meeting (ZOOM):

Date: **Tues, June 22, 2021**

Time: 7pm

Place: Your desk or a comfy armchair  
in your home

### Activities:

**Business Meeting; Guest Speaker;  
Members' Forum; Gardening Q&A;  
Library; Raffle; Plant Sales; ;  
Socializing!**



## **AGM (via Zoom) Tuesday 22 June**

For details see the President's Letter on page 3.

## June Speaker:

**Linda Gilkeson**

***Where Have All the Insects Gone?***

*See page 4 for details*



## The Brag Table

With plant and flower identification and commentary provided by **Barb Kohlman**, the Brag Table has been a great part of our monthly in-person meetings. And now in Covid and Zoom times, we are doing it virtually!

Do you have an interesting item from your garden? Share it by holding it up to your Zoom camera and Barb will comment on it (please make sure it's well lit!)

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## "Sunshine Mary"

**Our esteemed Life Member Mary Gale**, has for 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.

# President's Letter - Year End Report

Bernie Juurlink

Your Executive met on the evening of June 8, 2021 to decide which charities our Garden Club will donate to this year. The following charities were decided upon: 1) BC SPCA Cowichan Community Animal Centre (\$250); 2) Clements Centre Society (\$500); 3) Cobble Hill-Mill Bay-Shawnigan Lake (CMS) Food Bank (\$1,000); 4) Cowichan Hospice (\$500); 5) Nourish Cowichan Society (\$500); 6) Providence Farm (\$500); and 7) Somenos Transition House (\$500). At this meeting we also finalized the number of bursaries to be given out by the Mill Bay Garden Club: three \$500 bursaries will be given to deserving students. So how was this possible, especially since for two years in a row we did not have a Flower and Garden Show with its Silent Auction that generated most of funds given to charities and with limited gatherings because of Covid-19? Clearly fund-raising activities were going on throughout the year.

I thank all the Club members who helped fund raise but especially the following: 1) Norman and Gwen Redcliffe who raised almost \$2,000 in plant and seed sales that entered the Club's coffers. In addition, they donated in the name of our Club \$1,400 in plants and equipment to Queen Margaret's School and Brentwood College and facilitated a \$792 donation to the Clements Centre Society in the name of our Club. 2) Monika Morgan and the many members who helped her raise over

\$2,000 through her plant and Alpaca poo sale as well as the Plant Sale she organized on May 29, 2021; and 3) Pat Spezowka and her committee who organized the Christmas Swag sale that raised \$451 plus an additional \$235 for the CMS Food Bank.

I also thank the anonymous donors who generously gave \$1,000 to our bursary program. The Club had originally budgeted to give two bursaries this year but this anonymous donation allowed us to give out three bursaries to deserving students. The remaining \$500 of the anonymous donation will be used for our bursary program in 2022. The donors wish to remain anonymous but a letter of appreciation has been sent on behalf of our Club.

I thank all the members of the executive who kept the Club going this past year: Gillian Keir was responsible for the success of our Zoom Speaker program and keeping the Flower & Garden Show Committee alive; Gord Hamilton kept the Zoom Meetings going, maintained our



# President's Letter - Year End Report

Bernie Juurlink

website and looked after our monies; Dave Byrnes organized our News Bulletins last summer, our Newsletters during the year and sent out notices periodically to the members; Katherine Miller organized looking after the Community Hall Garden; Ann Baty looked after our Bursary Program; Pat Spezowka looked after membership; Monika Morgan looked after Plant Sales; Dorothy Kennedy kept the minutes both of our general meetings as well as the Executive meetings; Stephanie Taylor for willing to hold the raffle once Covid-19 restrictions were eased; Melanie Fiander for willing to look after our kitchen once in-person meetings start; Janice Rose for looking after our Library; Pauline Dueck for looking after our Facebook page; Donna Kaiser as Past-President for willingness to advise us; and, most importantly, Mary Gale, our Historian and ensure that members of the Club get sympathy cards when something untoward happens. Without these individuals the Club could not have functioned.

I thank the many members who volunteered for our fundraising activities. I also thank Bill Herring, Barb Kohlman and Elaine Scott for hosting our monthly Master Gardener Question sessions and I thank Barb Kohlman for hosting the Brag Table.

For all they have done for the Club the Executive members have voted that Norman and Gwen Redcliffe be given Lifetime Memberships in the Club. They

join our other Lifetime members who have greatly contributed to the success of our Club - they are: Ruby Armour, Mary Gale, Dot Garbet, Bill Herring, Mary Herring, Barb Kohlman, Monika Morgan, Ajay Oppelaar, Dianne Regan, Janice Rose, Elaine Scott and Cliff Stainsby.

Our final monthly session of the year is the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This will be held on June 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will start the session with a talk by Linda Gilkeson. This will be followed by our AGM. We will also have our usual Brag Table and Question & Answer period by our Master Gardeners.

The major item of business at the AGM is the election of the Executive. The current Executive members are willing to stand again; however, we still need someone willing to stand for the position of Vice President. The major duties of the Vice President are to run our Speaker program and to step in when the President is not available to make a meeting. Cliff Stainsby is Chairing the Nominations Committee and if you are willing to stand for the position of Vice President please let Cliff know.

With Covid-19 vaccinations going strong we should be able to meet in person in the fall. So, hopefully, we see everyone in person at our first meeting on September 28, 2021 at the Mill Bay Community League Hall. And, perhaps, we shall see each other at one or more of the Open Gardens this summer.

## **June 22, 2021, Mill Bay Garden Club**

### **Annual General Meeting Agenda**

1. 7:00 p.m.: “Where Have All the Insects Gone?” by Linda Gilkeson
2. 8:00 p.m.: Annual General Meeting
  - a. Approval of the agenda
  - b. President’s Report – Bernie Juurlink
  - c. Election of the Executive, chaired by Cliff Stainsby
  - d. Virtual Brag Table, chaired by Barb Kohlman
  - e. Garden-related Questions to our Master Gardeners
  - f. Questions for the Executive?
  - g. Final comments by the President
  - h. Motion for Adjournment

## **June’s Speaker (Tuesday, June 22nd)**

**Linda Gilkeson, via Zoom:**

### **“Where Have All the Insects Gone”**

Global insect populations have crashed over the last couple of decades. Learn why this matters for our food supply, for a healthy environment and the future of wildlife. Find out what factors may be causing the widespread declines and how gardeners can help to reduce the harm from some of these factors.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Plant Sales**

Well, despite the ongoing pandemic we had a successful plant sale year again. Thank you for all the plant donations & purchasers. We raised over \$2000. These moneys will all be donated back to our community charities. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Have a good summer. We look forward to seeing more of you in person in the fall.

*Your friendly plant sales team*

*Monika & Sharon*

*The Plant sales team*

## Committee Reports

### Memorial Garden

A stalwart group of volunteers showed up at the recent work party at the Mill Bay Community Hall to remove landscape cloth and weed the garden. We took away several big garbage bags of debris and the garden looks much better. Many thanks to Bernie J, Janice R, Geraldine F, Glenda W, Jim & Lyn W, Mary-Jean M, and Phil LG.

The sprinklers in the garden are working and our next step is to draw up a plan for rejuvenating the plants and shrubs.

A lovely time was had by all. *Katherine Miller, Committee lead*



### Gutter Gardening!

At the MBGC's April general meeting, speakers (and club members) Fran Benton and Liz Lindquist spoke on gutter gardening. Here's a follow up from Membership Secretary Pat Spezowka:

Attached is a pic of our gutter garden. Thanks to Liz and Fran for their presentation a couple of months ago. Alex and I got excited about gutter gardens and built one right away. The plants in it are healthy and growing at a much faster rate than if they were in the ground.

Thanks ladies.



### 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*



## 2021 Winners of the MBGC Bursaries

### Halle Oud from Cowichan Secondary School



Halle plans to pursue her horticulture and ecosystems interest through a Bachelor of Science Program at the University of Victoria.

### Corinne Barr & Brittany Lemieux from Horticultural Centre of the Pacific



Both Corinne and Brittany are enrolled in Landscape Horticulture. Corinne wrote the following note to the club:

*I am writing to express my thanks for the awarding of the Mill Bay Garden Club Bursary. This bursary will greatly help me with my continuing studies at the Pacific Horticulture College.*

*I would be very happy to be a part of your June newsletter. I have attached a photo of me (right) with my classmate Nola (left) getting ready to install some micro irrigation in our student garden bed at PHC. Thank you again.*

Very kindly,  
Corinne Barr

### Donation to Bursary Fund

We are excited to announce the very generous anonymous donation of \$1000 to the bursary fund from a couple who are very supportive of education.

The committee has decided that \$500 will go to a second student at Horticultural Centre of the Pacific. The other \$500 will be reserved for future bursary opportunities. On behalf of MBGC, I would sincerely like to thank the donors for this kind gift.



## Beautiful Strangers by Fran Benton

Now that the planting season is mostly done we get a bit more time to stop and smell the roses. Ah, don't get me going about those stupid roses...!

Sometimes just prowling around the untended bits of your property or local walkways can bring surprises. Last week I was walking up Mt Tzouhalem to the Garry Oak meadow and I spotted something strange. Looking closer I found I was staring at a native orchid. When I got closer I remembered that this was a member of the Corallorhiza, or Spotted Coral Root, a group of ground orchids that are found in deep woods. As they are very inconspicuous I dug out the camera and spent some time rolling around on the ground getting good pictures. Just as I finished a fellow photo fiend arrived trailside and wanted to know what the heck I was doing. I introduced him to these lovely orchids and left him in my spot getting lots of cool close ups.

These orchids live a curious life. They do not produce chlorophyll and do not photosynthesize. They get their nourishment from the mycorrhizal fungi that produce the common mushroom *Russula*. Think about that for a minute. Fungus feeds on roots and tissues of plants. So the Spotted coral root is feeding on the fungus that in turn is feeding on other plants. The particular fungus Coral Root is feeding on is a super common big red brown mushroom. Now I am just saying that I would not want to be getting my nourishment from a genus of mushrooms that are known as the sickeners. *Russula emetica*, the sickener mushroom, is the common mushroom in these woods. Nope, definitely NOT edible. So if you can't eat it, can you use it in other ways? Spotted Coralroot orchids were used by Native Americans as remedies for colds, pneumonia, and skin irritation. Nope, I'll stick with Tylenol, antibiotics, and Nivea cream! There are a lot of interesting parasitic plants that live in our area and are worth keeping an eye out for. As the summer progresses watch for dodder. This is a very cool parasite that grows on sea asparagus or *Salicornia*. You may also know this plant as pickleweed. The dodder grows on and through the plants stems. *Salicornia* is a part of a delicate ecosystem and although it is greatly loved by chefs, it's quite endangered so, like the Spotted Coral root, admire but don't pick! Boy we are lucky to live in the Pacific Northwest where there are so many weird and wonderful plant strangers to meet!

