



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting (ZOOM):

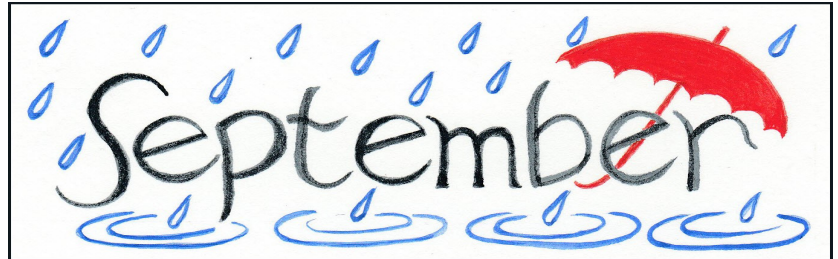
Date: **Tues, September 28, 2021**

Time: 7pm

Place: Your desk or a comfy armchair
in your home

Activities:

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



September Speaker:

Barrie Agar

**Heritage Apples
and why you should
grow them**

See page 3 for details



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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 Report

Bernie Juurlink

Welcome to a new year for the Mill Bay Garden Club. What a brutally hot and dry summer we have had, with the Province declaring, in August, that Vancouver Island is in a Stage 5 drought. But in the past week we have had some nice rains (63 millimetres fell in our yard) and more rain in the forecast.

We had hoped to start meeting in person this September; however, the Delta variant is driving Covid-19 cases rapidly upward. As of September 16, according to Island Health, there were 619 active cases on Vancouver Island, the majority of these cases are on Central and South Island. Although most of the cases involve unvaccinated people, a small percentage of the cases are people that have been doubly vaccinated. Since, the efficacy of the vaccines do vary somewhat from person to person and since many of our members are of retirement age and, thus, most vulnerable to Covid-19, your Executive has reluctantly decided that the September meeting will be held via Zoom.

The September 28th meeting will start with our speaker followed by the Club business meeting. For our next Zoom meeting be prepared to display some interesting items from your garden: Barb Kohlman and Elaine Scott will host the Brag Table.

We shall decide month by month whether to have the meetings via Zoom or in person. When we do meet in person the current regulations are that only 60 people can be in the Hall at any one time and that vaccine passports must be presented and checked and, as well, one must wear a mask.

We are planning a plant sale on October 16th at the Sylvan United Church – the same location as our last Plant Sale. At this sale we will also be selling some of our surplus library books. Also, Pat Spezowka will be collecting membership dues at the Plant Sale.

The Compost Education Centre located in Victoria is looking for new members as well as people to join their Board of Directors. This Centre promotes gardening with a teaching garden, school programs and workshops in Greater Victoria and occasionally other locations on Southern Vancouver Island. To learn more about this Centre, please visit the website at: <https://compost.bc.ca/>. This is a very worthy non-profit that is in line with the goals of the Mill Bay Garden Club. The Centre is especially looking for more Board members. The Board meetings are via Zoom. If you are interested, please let me know and I will pass that onto Alexis Hogan, the Executive Director.

Bernie

September 28, 2021, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda

- 1) 7:00 p.m. Speaker: **Barrie Agar** - chaired by Cliff Stainsby
- 2) 8:00 p.m.: Club Business
 - a) Approval of the agenda
 - b) Approval of the minutes of May 2021 Club Zoom meeting
 - c) President's Report – Bernie Juurlink
 - d) Executive Committee reports
 - e) Virtual Brag Table
 - f) Garden-related Questions with our Master Gardeners
 - g) Questions for the Executive?
 - h) Adjournment

September's Speaker (Tuesday, September 28):

Barrie Agar, via Zoom, on

Heritage Apples: Why You Should Grow Them

Barrie Agar: My first horticultural forays were at the age of three with my great-grandmother. We would set off, salt cellars in hand to seek out and destroy the slugs threatening her beloved roses. Although with the gruesomeness ever present in toddlers and small children I enjoyed melting, dissolving end of the slimy invaders, I now know it is much kinder to drown them in beer. Of the roses I remember very little.

Much later on I became enraptured with vegetable gardening while living in Ireland. Working in a market garden was the precursor to Agricultural College where I insisted on studying Commercial Horticulture (Vegetables and Fruit production)

I went back to the estate and promptly ended up in the gardens as opposed to cutting lettuce or planting cabbage, or even worse, picking Brussel Sprouts. In your home garden patch it is an enjoyable task; however, faced with 5 acres of them and the wind whipping down off the North Sea it is more daunting.

It was not all Rhododendrons and roses though. There was a walled garden that still had remnants of the espaliered trees around its perimeter, a peach house that produced regularly and bountifully and had to be locked against the local urchins, and a Black Hamburg grape in a lean to house that produced big beautiful bunches of deep purple grapes.

Upon returning to Canada I worked in several specialty nurseries, my fruit growing confined to pots. But at Royal Roads I had indeed come full circle, working on a large estate with roses, Rhododendrons, a walled garden, the survivors of a once flourishing orchard, and yes, a glasshouse with a Black Hamburg grape. This, as the one in Ireland was reputed to be a cutting from the vine at Hampton Court, but *everyone* says that.

Now retired, I hope to work on my own garden and finally let the neighbours know what I did for a living, because they certainly would not have guessed it before.

Committee Reports

Notes from the Library

While the library has been in hibernation, the librarian has not. A very special book has been procured for our club. 'Finding the Mother Tree' by Dr. Suzanne Simard is waiting to hit the circuit! Through decades of scientific inquiry and research Dr. Simard has made significant discoveries about the connectedness of the Mother tree to the forest. This is a topic well worth exploring and a book well worth reading. In my opinion it relates perfectly to gardening as we know much is happening in the world below the soil surface.

Hopefully, in the very near future our library will get dusted off and be ready to invite you to return.

*Your friendly librarian,
Janice Rose*

Membership

Annual dues for the 2021-22 Season of the Mill Bay Garden Club are now payable. Membership Secretary Pat Spezowka will be renewing memberships at the upcoming plant sale on October 16. You can also renew your membership by e-transfer. Treasurer Gord Hamilton explains how in his report.

Plant Sales

Well, after some much needed rain and cooler weather, our thoughts and rested bodies are ready to get back into our gardens.

We plan to have an outdoor plant sale on oct 16 (Saturday) time to be confirmed ,but probably 10-12 at Sylvan United church (next to Mill Bay Hall) . Lots of room for social distancing (who would have thought we'd still be concerned about it this far along.)

We hope to have a pretty good selection of plants for very reasonable prices. If you are splitting your perennials and eager to share, we would love to have them (as long as they are not invasive . If you would like help potting them up just let me know. I'm happy to do so.

Questions or donations, you can contact me.

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

Honouring Ruby Armour and Mary Gale

This year we wish to give special recognition to two outstanding members of the Mill Bay Garden Club.

Mary Gale and Ruby Armour have distinguished themselves through decades of service to our club. Their dedication, commitment, positive attitude, cheerfulness and sense of humour have provided a solid foundation from which this club has grown. They have both served on the executive in several positions throughout their years. In addition they have continued to support the Flower and Garden Show every year at the plant sale cash desk.

Through their generosity of spirit and time our club has earned enormous respect in our community. We wish to thank them from the bottom of our hearts. A celebration in their honour will be held in the very near future.



Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest

12th Annual Haig-Brown Lecture by Dr Suzanne Simard, presented by Museum at Campbell River

Sunday, September 26th 7:00 pm

The 2021 Haig-Brown Lecture will feature Dr. Suzanne Simard, a world leading forest ecologist. Dr. Simard will address the complexity of our forest ecosystem and base her talk on her bestselling book "Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest".

From the world's leading forest ecologist who forever changed how people view trees and their connections to one another and to other living things in the forest--a moving, deeply personal journey of discovery.

Suzanne Simard is a pioneer on the frontier of plant communication and intelligence; she's been compared to Rachel Carson, hailed as a scientist who conveys complex, technical ideas in a way that is both dazzling and profound. Her work has influenced filmmakers (the Tree of Souls of James Cameron's Avatar) and her TED talks have been viewed by more than 10 million people worldwide.

Order Tickets: \$15 In Person Admission

Order Tickets: \$15 Live Stream Admission

Visit tidemarktheatre.com/event to purchase



Treasurer's Report

Included at the end of this newsletter are the Financial Statements for our year that ended this past June 30. While it was a difficult year I am pleased to report that the club almost broke even with a loss of only \$83.20.

Thanks to some excellent plant and Christmas sales we were able to commit to our usual community donations for this year. And, a generous donation allowed us to give out two \$500 bursaries as well. As a result, we will start off this year in excellent financial condition which bodes well for the coming year.

No security question is required as money transferred is automatically deposited into our account. Please specify who the payment is for in the message box on the transfer form as it is not always clear in the email who is sending the money.

Gord Hamilton

Joanne Mitchell

A note from Pauline Dueck:

Sadly, I'm writing to pass on the news that we lost one of our members, Joanne Mitchell, unexpectedly to a massive brain hemorrhage earlier in July. She and her partner, Christine Rath, have been members of the MBGC for several years now, having moved from Toronto to retire in Cowichan Bay. I also knew Joanne from the Cowichan Valley Arts Council, as she was a very talented painter.



In Search Of...

Dear members of the garden club

I am looking for a small /portable chipper for my garden waste. Any one have one they want to off load?

Cheers



Gardening Tips for September-October 2021 by Barb Kohlman

1. Stop Trimming and Fertilizing --- time to let your plants rest for the winter.
2. Divide and move perennials to fill holes in the garden, or share with friends.
3. Cut back any perennial that have finished blooming or are diseased.
4. Dig up and store those tender bulbs like, cannas, dahlias, and other tubers.
5. Start planting spring flower bulbs like, daffodils, tulips, and check out new specimens at Dinters.
6. Harvest remaining vegetables except those cold hardy varieties such as brussels sprouts, lettuce, and beets.
7. Great time to plant trees and shrubs, keep watered during dry spells.
8. Pick herbs for drying and or freezing.
9. Remove diseased tomato, potato, and squash foliage to prevent disease. Your choice whether to compost or not --- if you have a large compost pile the material may decay to good compost!
10. Remove dead branches from roses and fruit trees (no pruning yet). This is a spring chore.



Bonus Tips:

- *Improve your garden soil by adding manure, compost and leaves directly to the top of your vegetable gardens.*
- *Move your tropical houseplants indoors by the end of the month checking for pests and treating if needed before the move indoors.*

Cheers Barb Kohlman

**MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB
INCOME STATEMENT
Period Ending June 30, 2021**

INCOME

Membership Dues	940.00
Kitchen	
Raffle	
Plant Sales	1,376.00
Alpaca Gold	140.00
Christmas Sales	451.00
Normasn and Gwen Redcliffe Sales	1,977.20
Flower and Garden Show	
Book Sales	36.00
Donations	1,505.00
Interest	8.05
Name Tags	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>6,433.25</u>

EXPENSES

Rent	38.49
Speaker Presentations	335.00
Donations	3,985.00
Bursary	1,500.00
Library	
Insurance	199.96
Kitchen	
Annual General Meeting	
Raffles	
Christmas Party	
Web Site / Zoom	382.69
Name Tags	
Seedy Saturday Rentals	
Administraton	75.31
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>6,516.45</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u><u>(83.20)</u></u>

**MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB
BALANCE SHEET
As of June 30, 2021**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	426.75
Bursary Fund (Restricted)	1,000.00
Term Deposit GIC	1,042.07
Island Savings Credit Union Shares	5.72
Total Bank Accounts	2,474.54

Prepaid Expenses	36.51
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Total Current Assets	2,511.05
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TOTAL ASSETS	2,511.05
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LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities:

Accounts Payable
Prepaid Dues

Equity

Retained Earnings - Beginning Balance	2,594.25	
Net Income	-83.20	
Retained Earnings - Ending Balance	2,511.05	2,511.05

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	2,511.05
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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
7:04 pm 11 May, 2021

Via Zoom: 21 participants

1. President's Report: Bernie Juurlink

- Call to order 7:04 p.m.
- Acceptance of the Agenda: no changes to Agenda: Janice Rose moved; seconded by Barb Kohlman
- Acceptance of minutes from April 26, 2021: Moved by Dave Byrnes; seconded by Barb Jensen
- Comments: no changes

- a. Bernie Juurlink: Planning on MBGC Plant Sale 29 May, if permitted to gather.

Monica: Sylvan United Church held a plant sale last weekend and there was lots of room for a successful sale. She has plants and will accept donations of others to be brought to the sale.

Suggested time is 10:00 – 2:00 for plant sale: price of 1 gallon is \$5.00, and she asks if people could add prices to the plant and label them ahead of time. Closer to the event, she will announce when to bring the plants to Sylvan.

- b. Upcoming AGM: Vice-President position is vacant. Job entails finding speakers. All other positions will be filled by those on the Executive, unless others speak up and stand for a position.
- c. Finances: MBGC is in good financial position thanks to efforts of Pat Spezowka's committee with the Christmas swag sale, Monica Morgan's plant and poo sales, as well as to Norman and Gwen (\$1,981.00). The latter also donated plants and materials to schools in the name of the Garden Club (\$2,192.00). Executive will meet to decide which charities to give money. Other suggestions of charities beyond out list are welcome.

Monika: Smart Potatoes are available; these are tasty, low glycemic spuds.

Memorial Garden: Katherine Miller will send word out this evening to put together a Saturday crew to remove landscape cloth in garden.

Brag Table:

Monika Morgan: Unidentified Yellow rhododendron

Mary Liz Linquist: unidentified, attractive purple plants from Canadian Super Store

Janice Rose: fragrant azalea, Mother's Day azalea, heuchera, and Daphne tangutica (twice blooming)

Barb Kohlman: Silene dioica, S. dioica Clifford Moore, S. uniflora compacta. Also called campion.

Pip Woodcock: cannot show her "brag," for she ate a feast from her garden - asparagus, spouting broccoli, tomatoes, garlic, shallots, herbs

Pip announces that Elaine's neighbour has a plot available to anyone who would like to grow vegetables.

Questions:

Arbutus: article from Times Colonist. Gord will add it to the newsletter. Barb mentions Health sheet available online.

Pieris: check them and if you find them speckled, they will have an insect damage on underside
Lacebug is attacking the shrub.

Neem oil on Pieris and keep plant healthy.

Quail in garden: can you use pest control from Buckerfields? Row cover, perhaps or feed them elsewhere.

Norfolk Pine: Laura has a pine that is in the house in winter and outside in the summer. Can smaller of two in the pot be pruned to have a shorter tree?

Elaine: Likely have 2 plants that should have been separated earlier, or she could cut one out. Should not prune top of tree.

Use of Alpaca manure: water it and put it on your perennials, and dig it in. It doesn't have to be aged.

Black raspberry: *Rubus occidentalis* (Heather Jenkins has some)

Bindweed: Kate wants suggestions how to get rid of it. Just keep pulling it!

Adjournment 8:10: Pip Woodcock moved to adjourn.