



# MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

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## Next Meeting (ZOOM):

Date: **Tues, February 22, 2022**

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!



January Speaker:

**Philip MacDougall**

**On China and Rhododendrons**

*See page 3 for details*



## “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.

***Mary is currently under the weather and is having a rest from sending cards. Janice Rose has stepped into the breach, and is continuing to send cards to members until Mary returns.***



If you know of someone in the club who is sick, in hospital, or has lost a loved one, please let Janice know and she will send a card on our behalf.

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# President's Report - February 2022

Bernie Juurlink

Spring is definitely around the corner. One of our camellia trees is in bloom. Our lovely Phoebe hellebore, gift from Ajay, is now in bloom as well as snow drops and heathers.

Covid-19 case numbers, which peaked on January 22, are going down in Island Health, although 17.5% of Covid-19 tests are still positive so there is yet considerable community transmission occurring. Perhaps the omicron variant is the last hurrah of Covid-19. Hopefully, by the time May rolls around we can have our Flower & Garden Show.

A few weeks ago, several of us members of the Garden Club had a tour of the Wildwood Ecoforest. The tour was led by Barry Gates, an ecoforester who is a member of the Board of the Ecoforestry Institute Society (EIS), the Trustee of Wildwood Ecoforest. A member of our Garden Club, Kathy Code, is also a Board member of the EIS. The mission of the EIS is to steward forests for biodiversity and ecological integrity to ensure a healthy planet.

The 77 acres of Wildwood was part of the forest owned by Merv Wilkinson, who developed an ecologically sustainable harvest approach on his land. Wildwood Ecoforest was purchased in 2000 by the Land Conservancy of BC, but when this organization ran into financial difficulty it put the land up for sale. In late 2016 the EIS acquired the land for \$800,000 paid for in part by donations and by taking out a mortgage.

The mandate of the EIS is to promote the principles and practices of ecoforestry through selective harvesting, honouring the legacy of Merv Wilkinson. The other component of the mandate is to provide educational programs and opportunities for a wide range of audiences, including First Nations people. The 77 acres of Wildwood Ecoforest is only part of the original Merv Wilkinson forest and the EIS would like to acquire all of the original forest. The EIS has been fund-raising and is in the process of acquiring an additional 6 acres of the original forest and would like to acquire a further 75 acres.

People from all over the world come to Wildwood Ecoforest to learn about ecoforestry. The Ecoforest is located on Crane Road, just off Yellow Point Road near Ladysmith. It is about an hour from Mill Bay. Since Wildwood Ecoforest is in our backyard, we thought that other members of the Garden Club would enjoy an opportunity to tour Wildwood Ecoforest with Barry Gates giving an explanation of all the interconnections that form a healthy forest. Barry Gates has kindly agreed to give a guided tour to our Club. Possible dates are the Saturdays of April 2, 9 or 30. Barry's schedule is flexible and we would choose the first good weather day as the day of the tour.

There is no cost to the tour but I would recommend a donation to the EIS, since it still has a \$450,000 mortgage to pay off and is fund-raising to acquire more of the original Merv Wilkinson forest. You may even want to join as a member of the EIS. The Society's website is can be found at: <https://www.ecoforestry.ca/wildwood-1>.



## February 22, 2022, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda

- 1) 7:00 p.m. Speaker: **Philip MacDougall** - chaired by Cliff Stainsby
- 2) 8:00 p.m.: Club Business
  - a) Approval of the agenda
  - b) Approval of January 25, 2022 minutes
  - 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

## January's Speaker (Tuesday, February 22):

### Philip MacDougall, PhD via Zoom

Due to a last minute speaker change, detailed notes for the talk are not available at "press time" (i.e., when I press the Send button).

Philip will be speaking about a recent visit to China, and rhododendrons. I will send further details if they arrive in time.

## Spring Volunteer Opportunity

Each year a Bursary of \$500 is awarded to a local high school graduate who intends to pursue studies in a plant / environment-related field. The Bursary committee is looking for one or two volunteers to assist in the 2022 selection process. The applications (usually between 4 and 8) are submitted in April, and we usually make our selection by early May.

*Ann Baty*



## Committee Reports

### 2022 Flower and Garden Show Plant Sale

The Mill Bay Garden Club will be holding their Community Flower and Garden Show on Saturday May 28, 2022 at the Cobble Hill Hall in Cobble Hill Village.

Elaine Scott has organised and coordinated the Garden Club's Plant Sale for many years. She always had a fine team helping her and the Club's plant sale was always very successful and popular.

Elaine has stepped down from this position and Barb and Bernie Jurrlink have stepped in to fill her shoes. And they are big shoes to fill.

You can help in many ways:

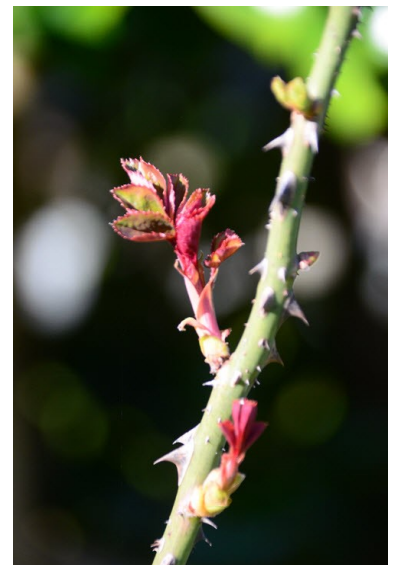
- Divide your perennials this spring and pot some up to donate to the Club's plant sale table
- Plant a few extra seeds this spring when you start your bedding plants and donate your extra plants to the club
- Propagate some of your favourite plants to donate to the club
- Volunteer to help with the transportation of the plants to the Cobble Hill Hall the early morning of the Show (Saturday, May 28, 2022)
- Set up tent, tables and chairs for the sale
- Help to groom and price the plants
- Work at the plant sale
- Clean -up after the sale

Barb and Bernie are new at this so any help you can offer will be much appreciated. Plant donations can be dropped off at Barb and Bernie's at 683 Butterfield Road, Mill Bay during the month of May.

Please contact Barb or Bernie if you can help in any way with the set up, grooming, pricing, sales and takedown.

### Send a Get Well Card to Mary Gale!

Mary Gale, one of our pioneer MBGC members has fallen ill and has been in the hospital since mid December. Over the last thirty years she has sent hundreds of cards to garden club members who needed a bit of a pick-me-up. Please join us in helping lift Mary's spirits by sending her a get well card.



# Committee Reports (continued)

## Plant Sales

BUCKETS BUCKETS BUCKETS

Need some 5 gallon buckets to do your yard work? Nick Jenkins has some nice wine juice buckets (empty®) with lids that are great to haul garden stuff around.

Make a small donation (suggest \$5) & get gardening!

Enjoy the sunshine

*Monika Morgan*

## Memorial Garden

*From the Memorial Garden working group*

As you probably know, the Garden Club has taken on the task of maintaining the small garden area by the entry to the hall. Barb Kohlman has created a lovely plan, with suggested plants, and I am now costing them out at Dinter's, for that area.

However, if anyone has any of the plants listed below, and is able to divide or otherwise share them, it will save us buying them. **Please contact me directly, by email.** Not Barb, Bernie, or anyone else. I'll collate all information received and share it with the relevant people. Thank you for sharing whatever you can spare from your gardens.

*Katherine Miller*

3	P4	Brunnera macrophylla	Siberian bugloss	18"x24"	Bright blue fl. mid-late spring
3	P5	Astilbe 'Amethyst'	False Solomon seal	3'x3'	Tall lilac pink fl. early summer
6	P6	Smilacina racemose	False Solomon seal	3'x2'	Clumps of pale-green leaves, yellow in fall creamy white fl. in spring
3	F1	Polistichum munitum	Western sword fern	4'x4'	EG cut to base in spring = all new, fresh leaves
5	G1	Carex elata 'Aurea'	Bowles golden sedge	2'x2'	Rich yellow leaves margined in green
6+7	G2	Carex comans 'Bronze'	NZ hair sedge	1'x2'	EG good filler plant
ground cover for shade to fill in					
		Cyclamen hederifolium			
		Anemone species			
		As arum europaeum			
		Maianthemum bifolium			
		Pachysandra macrophyllum			
ground cover for sun to fill in					
		Thymus pulegioides 'Bertrum Henderson'	Lemon thyme		EG
		Aubrieta 'Joy'			Mauve fl.
		Nepeta x foassenii	Catmint		Lavender fl. in summer
Code: EG evergreen					

# needed	Code	Latin Name	Common Name	Size hwx	Comments
1	T1	Acer palmatum 'Adrian'	Maple	5'x3'	Small/upright/burgundy-red in fall orange
	Or	Acer palmatum 'Amagi shigure'		10'x10'	Variiegated red -burgundy in fall orange
	Or	Acer palmatum 'Baby Ghost'		8'x8'	deep amber to red in fall orange
Existing	S1	Kolkwitzia amabilis	Beautybush	10'x12'	Pink fl. in late spring/early summer
Existing	S2	Rhododendron species		3'x3'	EG
1	S3	Rhododendron species		3'x3'	Pick these two to complement the existing one
1	S4	Rhododendron species		3'x3'	Pale yellow fl. with small vivid red flara/red bud
Onhand	S5	Rhododendron 'Horizon Monarch'		6'x6'	Upright/compact dark red fl.
1	S6	Ribes sanguineum 'King Edward VII'	flowering currant	6'x6'	
1	S7	Corolopsis pauciflora	Buttercup winter hazel	5'x8'	Pale yellow fl. early to mid spring keep with pruned
1	S8	Daphne odora	Winter daphne	4'x4'	EG purple-pink with white fl. early spring
4	S9	Fuchsia species eg. 'Herald'		3'x3'	Fragrant/dark purple
		'Geni'			Cerise/violet red
		'Dark Eyes'			Deep red/deep violet-blue
		'Margaret'			Two tone pink
		'Brown'			
3	S10	Nandina domestica 'Gulf Stream'	Heavenly bamboo	3'x3'	EG all season interest red/green leaves attracts bees
3	S11	Choisya ternate	Mexican orange	8'x8'	White fl. late spring and late summer PRUNE to 4' every 2 years or as needed
5	P1	Paeonia species	Peony	2'x3'	Selection of colours to complement each other
3	P2	Heleborus species	Hellebore	18"x2'	Cut off old leaves in February
8	P3	Epimedium grandiflorum	Barrenwort	18"x18"	Select species assortment

## Garden Tours...

In those dear, dead, pre-pandemic days, each year several members of the Mill Bay Garden Club open their gardens for other members of the Club to view. In the past, members have been interested in both ornamental and food gardens. Typically people who opened their gardens put in considerable effort making them showpieces.

This year, as a repeat of a theme from a few years ago, we are inviting members to open for viewing their '**Gardens As They Are**'. This means no need to obsess about weeding and deadheading and pruning and mulching and hiding tools and other gardening paraphernalia. Simply identify a day and time and location and a little information about your garden (e.g. it focusses on ornamentals, perennials, roses, rhodos, veggies, heathers, weeds, obnoxious smells etc) and send an email with the information to the Newsletter.

**All Covid precautions should be in place at participating gardens.**

## Gardening Tips for February by Barb Kohlman

Well, normally I might suggest you go out and cut down your grasses and sword ferns —



But perhaps you will wait till next week or so until it warms up a bit. Some of the new fronds on the ferns are already starting to elongate and unfurl.

Also, a little too soon to remove any leaves that are still laying on your garden beds, but again when it warms just a bit more, do this to free the soil to bask in the sun — put them in your compost where they will break down further.

Get ready to layer about 2" of compost on your ornamental beds once the soil has warmed — nutrients for spring growth.

Along with the compost I broadcast my Borden's organic mix to be slowly broken down by the microorganism and released to the soil profile for the plants. From Borden's Mercantile, Victoria or you can mix your own from ingredients from Buckerfields.

Remember (when attacking those nasty slugs) they are a good addition to your compost bin dead or alive — alive they will break down cardboard and paper (carbon material = browns). I always move the native banana slugs to the bins. And if you get slimed — wash your hands/tools with warm water and vinegar.

Cheers barb k



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2022

Via Zoom

7:01 p.m.: Talk on Vietnamese Rhododendrons and other plants found in the mountains of the north of Vietnam by Brian White .

Garden Club Meeting

Call to Order at approximately 8:25p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda – moved by Cliff Stainsby, seconded by Janice Rose.

Acceptance of Minutes from November 23, 2021 – moved by Pip Woodcock and seconded by Pat Spezowka.

1. Presidents report: Bernie Juurlink – no report.
2. Executive Committee Reports:
  - Bursary Committee Report: Ann Baty reported that our bursary recipient has started her studies. Several people have resigned from the Bursary Committee and the Committee needs a few more volunteers.
  - Library Committee: Janice Rose has the book Mother Tree by Suzanne Simard to lend out. Anyone wishing to borrow the book can contact Janice.
  - Treasurer: Gord Hamilton reported the Club is in good financial shape with about \$4,500 in the bank.
3. Virtual Brag Table: Janice Rose, Barb Kohlman and Barb Juurlink had flowers to show.
4. Garden-Related Questions: Ann Baty asked if anyone knew who sold mushroom starter kits. Laura S. suggested the Mycology Society in Victoria. It was also suggested to contact our local expert, Dustin Carlson.
5. Adjournment: Cliff Stainsby moved to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.