



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting (ZOOM):

Date: **Tues, March 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:

Kayla Siefried

**Building Gardens for
Healthy Soil**

See page 3 for details



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New Executive Members Needed!

Elections to the new Executive take place at the AGM in June. Many position holders are willing to continue, but several important positions need to be filled, including President, Vice-President and Secretary. Please think about volunteering for one of these, or any of the other positions listed in the **Call for Nominations** on page 4.

“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.

Janice Rose has temporarily stepped into this role, 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.



President's Report - March 2022

Bernie Juurlink

Spring officially starts on March 20th this year with the Spring Equinox, but here on the Island the growing season is already well underway. It took only three days for my Kohlrabi and cabbage seeds to sprout in the greenhouse and 5 days for my radish to sprout in a covered garden bed. Barbara, who is somewhat addicted to hellebores, keeps potting up hellebore seedlings. This month she was delighted to see that two of the fifty of her three-year-old hellebores bore double flowers.

Covid-19 is on the decline with the dominant variant being the milder omicron version. Your Executive, on the evening of March 8th, discussed whether to have an in-person Club meeting on April 26th. It was decided that if: i) the Covid-19 regulations still allowed such in-person meetings, and ii) the majority of Club members wished to have an in-door meeting, we will have our first in-person meeting since the Covid-19 pandemic started. Since the Executive meeting, the Province has issued new Covid-19 regulations. On March 11, the Province stated that there will be no restrictions on indoor gatherings from April 8th onwards: no masking will be required and no proof of vaccination. If we do have an indoor meeting in April, the Executive may decide that masks will be required. **So please email me as to whether you prefer an April Zoom meeting or an April in-person**

meeting. And, if an in-person meeting, should we mandate masks? My email address is: bjuurlink@gmail.com.

We are also rapidly approaching the June Annual General Meeting where a new Executive is elected. Cliff Stainsby, who after many positions on the Executive in the past and who stepped up to the Vice President position in the past year, has agreed to chair the Nominations Committee. So please read his call for nominations carefully and consider forwarding your name to Cliff. The Club can only function through the volunteers who willingly give their time for the many Club activities.

Finally, our Past President, Donna Kaiser, has a new knee and is doing well. If we have an in-person meeting in April, I am sure all of us will be glad to see her again, and, if not in-person, then on Zoom.

Bernie



March 22, 2022, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda

- 1) 7:00 p.m. Speaker: **Kayla Siefried** - chaired by Cliff Stainsby
- 2) 8:00 p.m.: Club Business
 - a) Approval of the agenda
 - b) Approval of February 22, 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

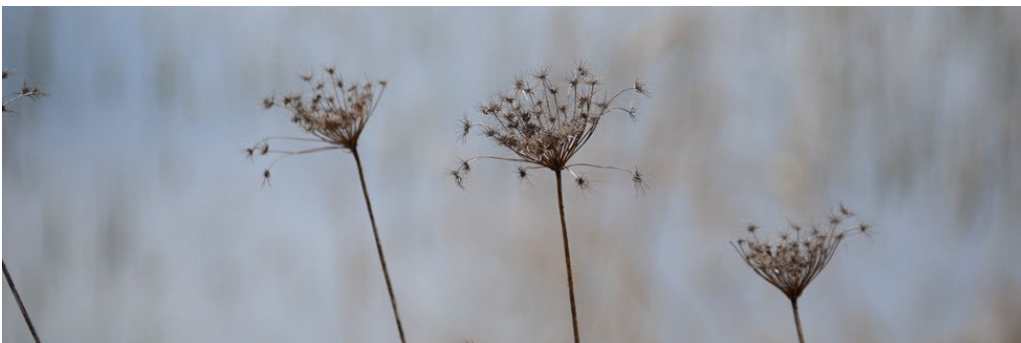
March's Speaker (Tuesday, March 22):

Kayla Siefried via Zoom

Kayla Siefried (she/her) is a settler in Lekwungen Territory and grew up in Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Territory. Kayla is the steward of the Compost Education Centre demonstration gardens and the curator and main educator of the Adult Education Program. She can be found growing seedlings for plant sales, working with volunteers to keep gardens healthy, flipping hot compost, arranging expert instructors to teach workshops, or out in the community teaching about soil health, organic gardening, and Do-It-Yourself tasks that increase our climate resilience.

Kayla holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo, and she continued on with practical hands-on permaculture training, gardening and farming internships in various places on Turtle Island and beyond.

Kayla sees the act of growing food and stewarding the soil as one that can heal on many levels. A keen sustainability activist, Kayla finds meaning in advocating for and living an environmentally sustainable life that involves bicycles, healthy food systems, and a good amount of outdoor dancing!



Call for Nominations from Acting Vice-President Cliff Stainsby

Hi, all you members of the Mill Bay Garden Club; gardening savants, one and all.

We are coming to the end of our year and our Annual General Meeting is imminent. At this meeting we choose an Executive for the following year. Although the salaries are immense, surprisingly the election process is usually not at all contentious. Any Club member can run for any position on the Executive. And, usually, we have only one or two positions to fill. This year though we have four positions to fill.

We require nominees for the four positions listed below. If you or someone you know is willing (dragooning is acceptable, maybe necessary) to occupy one of these esteemed positions (and thereby enhancing your/their resumes) please let me know ASAP. Send me your/their names and contact info, and the position you/they wish to occupy in an email with the subject line 'MBGC Executive nominees' to this address - cliffas@shaw.ca.

The four vacant positions are:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Plant table supervisor. Organizing plants for sale at meetings is the easy part. And, whoever takes this on will have the assistance of those who have done this in the past.

The holders of the remaining Executive positions have volunteered to run again. But, they can be challenged by anyone in the club. If you wish to occupy one of these positions please notify me as above.

These positions are:

- Treasurer
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Website
- Facebook
- Raffle
- Librarian
- Memorial Garden
- Bursary

As the MBGC believes in equity, both gender and task (as well as the other grand virtues - disingenuousness, occasional hard work, mucking about, nonsense, etc), each position on the Executive receives an identical, albeit exorbitant, salary with clearly excessive benefits. For at least the next term the Executive has determined to extend its magnanimity. So those interested in holding any of these positions can rest assured they will be treated very, very respectfully. (When contemplating this treatment refer to the virtues listed above.)

Sincerely (believe that or not, it is entirely up to you)

Cliff Stainsby (current and obviously highly incompetent incumbent Vice President)

Committee Reports

Membership

Welcome to new members from nearby and far away!



Joining this month:

- Theresa and David Zip
- Danielle Bellefleur
- Greg Kaplan

Welcome to the Mill Bay Garden Club!

Plant Sales

If we are fortunate enough to have an in person meeting in April, we will be very excited to have our plant table up & eagerly await some of your donations. If you will have split some of your perennials & happy to donate, please consider doing so. I.e., snow drops, primulas, hellebores? Or anything else you are happy to share.. Keep it in mind as you start working on your gardens.



Also: We will be looking for 1 or 2 eager folks to take on the PLANT SALES for our garden club. After a few years it's good to get some new blood & ideas to try. It doesn't have to be onerous, & you meet lots of great folks. It's also a good way to learn more about plants. These sales really help boost our club income & contribute to our community charity donations.

Think about it. If you would like to chat about it, don't hesitate to give me a shout. Happy to assist in the transition. (The position will be voted on at our annual general meeting in June, so wouldn't start until September.)

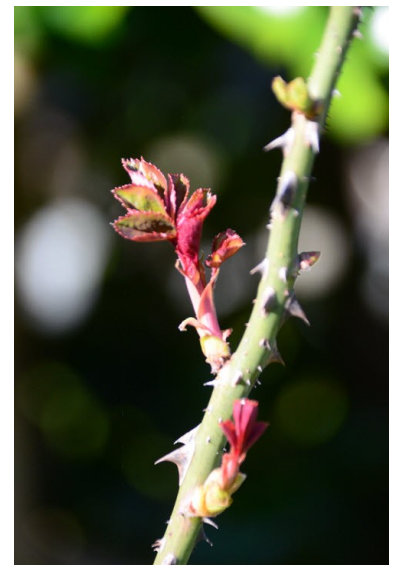
Happy gardening! Hope to see more of you soon IN PERSON

Your friendly plant sales team
Monika Morgan & Sharon Martin.

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



Miscellaneous News & Upcoming Events

Wildwood Ecoforest Tour with Barry Gates by Bernie Juurlink

This Ecoforest is managed by the Wildwood Ecoforest Institute (EIS). The mandate of the EIS is to promote the principles and practices of ecoforestry through selective harvesting, honouring the legacy of Merv Wilkinson.

The importance of ecoforestry is emphasized by the fact that Natural Resources Canada has determined that since 2002 Canada's Managed Forests are no longer carbon sinks but are net carbon producers. For example, the BC Government's Provincial Greenhouse Gas Inventory has our forests producing on the average about 96 megatonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide equivalents annually since 2010. This is much higher than the official BC statistics over that time period for all our other activities that average annually at 64 Mt of carbon dioxide equivalents. The solution to converting our Managed Forests once again to be carbon sinks would appear to be ecoforestry.

Barry Gates is a very informed ecoforestry and you will learn a lot about our forests and ecoforestry from him. You can also learn about the Ecoforest and its history from the Institute's website: <https://www.ecoforestry.ca/wildwood-1>

There is no charge for the tour but a donation would be appropriate since the EIS still holds a \$450,000 mortgage on the Ecoforest, or perhaps join the EIS.

Only a few people so far have indicated an interest in the Wildwood Ecoforest tour. This tour will be on the first Saturday with good weather in April, either April 2nd, 9th or 30th. Please let me know if you are interested. If only a small number of garden club members are interested I will open the tour to the members of other societies.

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.



Shawnigan Basin Society Raffle

The Shawnigan Basin Society, which is allowing the Community Flower and Garden Show Committee to meet in their Shawnigan Lake Office, is having a raffle for three cedar planters filled with gardening supplies. If you wish to buy tickets or get more information please contact the society either via email

(info@shawniganbasinsociety.org) or via telephone (250.929.4076). If you have difficulty in contacting the office, which is staffed only three afternoons a week (Thursday, Friday, Saturday), you can send me an email at:

Enter to Win!



The Shawnigan Basin Society

One of three Cedar Planters filled with locally inspired treasures!



PRIZE #1

Cedar Planter Raffle valued at \$1189.79

Draw Date:

**International Day for Biological Diversity
May 22nd 2022 @ 2PM**

Ticket sales end May 18th 2022

Draw location:

Shawnigan Basin Society Office

Tickets available:

\$5 each or \$20 for 5

**For more information contact
info@shawniganbasinsociety.org**

**or
250-929-4076**



PRIZE #2

Cedar Planter Raffle valued at \$659.84



PRIZE #3

Cedar Planter Raffle valued at \$485.79

Vancouver Master Gardeners

Spring Affair 2022: [Horti]culture in a Changing Climate

The weather we experienced in the past 12 months - flooding, heat domes, wild winds, and ice storms - can leave no doubt that our climate is changing. What can we, as gardeners, do?

At this year's virtual Spring Affair, our speakers will show you how to build a rain garden, how you can use your garden to shield your home from wildfire damage, and how you can help build the world's first global database of trees.

Join the Vancouver Master Gardeners via Zoom on March 27th to learn what you can do to make a difference. Unable to attend, or miss a speaker? Recordings will be available for ticket holders to view online until April 24th, 2022. Tickets: Early Bird \$45 - \$50 after March 15th

For tickets and to register: <http://mgabc.org/node/3033>

MILL BAY PLANTAHOLICS PLANT SALE

The Mill Bay Plantaholics are Sharon Martin, Lynne Testemale, Ali Morris, Noreen Carver, Barb Kohlman and Elaine Scott. Each year they hold a charity plant sale.

This popular long standing plant sale will continue on-line due to the fact that the number of customers has increased so much that it is now beyond our capacity to have an on-site sale.

Over 1,500 good quality, healthy plants (majority ornamental) and wooden garden objects will be available for purchase. Although our costs such as potting soil and seeds have increased, we would like to keep the prices the same as last year. That is \$3 for a four inch pot, \$6 for a one gallon pot and \$8 for a two gallon pot.

The list of sale items will be e-mailed to those on the customer list on Sunday, April 10th after which time orders can be placed. Requests will be processed in the order they are received. Email replies will be sent as soon as possible confirming orders and the amount owing. Payment will be either by e-transfer or pay in cash when the orders are picked up. If you are already on the customer list you will have already received an email from Elaine regarding the process for the plant sale. If you would like to be placed on the customer list, please send an email to Elaine at TheScottRogers@aol.com.

Any left over plants will be available for sale at time of pick-up. As well, Master Gardeners will be on hand ready to answer any general gardening questions.

Last year we were able to give \$4,200 each to our two charities of choice. One of our charities, Malawi Girls on the Go, has now become self sufficient. We have, therefore, decided to give our entire profit to our other charity of choice, Cowichan Women Against Violence Society. Apart from keep some money back to help pay for potting soil and seeds as we did last year, all of the money raised from the sale will go to this organization.

MARY GALE

Mary would like to thank everyone for the wonderful cards that she has received. They have certainly raised her spirits. Marie Cooke and Elaine Scott have been visiting Mary in the Cowichan District Hospital. As of the writing of this note, February 28, Mary is still in hospital but is in high spirits.

Recycling User Plastic/PVC Containers for Home Plant Germination by Norman Redcliffe

The world is being buried under disregarded “single use PVC containers”.

In 2021, I potted-up and sold, to raise funds for MBGC and the Clements Society, some 500 plants in 6 inch garden pots, of which I purchased 400 brand new from Dinter’s and Buckerfield’s as I had used up all my recycling stock. Only eight of those containers were returned to me by buyers.

It therefore occurred to me that this year I should recycle scrapped PVC/Plastic food/liquid containers and I am pleased to say, I have received the support of the CVRD (Cowichan Valley Regional District).

CVRD is willing to provide a 4’x4’ bin at Bings Creek beside which we may set up a sandwich board with samples of the types of food/liquid containers we can amend for plant cultivation.

Our local newspaper “The Citizen” picked up on the story and wants to publish an article on the subject to help us find other buyers for plants in recycled containers.



The plants we are currently dividing and potting are:

1. Tall Perennial Phlox – 24”-36” high of pink and mauve varieties. Flowering June to September. Hardy Perennials. Two varieties, Franz Schubert (mauve), Beautiful Pinky (pink!).
2. Goldsturm Rudbeckia – Bright yellow daisy-like flowers. Perennial plants about 18” high. Hardy Perennials.
3. Monarda – also known as Bergamot, Bee Balm, and Horse Mint. Name inspired by the scent of its leaves. It grows about a meter high and bears bright red flowers much loved by bees, humming birds, and insects that control garden pests. It is a perennial and blooms in our yard from June to October.
4. Bill Herring “Ten per Pod Heritage Peas”. We will have 20 containers with 15 plants ready to plant out in early April at a price of \$5.00. We also have packets of 35 seeds for \$5.00 per packet, and these are also available at MBGC (Monika Morgan) directly.

We will deliver orders either directly to your home or at a date to be announced outside the Mill Bay Community Hall, as we did with plants and seeds in 2021.

We aim to raise at least \$1,000 for MBGC for bursaries and other charitable donations.

Regards and thanks,

Norman and Gwen Redcliffe

PS Other plants may be made available when they are ready eg. Dahlias, with luck!

2022 Flower and Garden Show News

The Garden Club Steering Committee is well into the planning stages for this year's Mill Bay Garden Club Flower & Garden Show, May 27th & May 28th.

This event is a major fundraiser for our club and is a great opportunity to meet & enjoy the company of other members of the club.

We are looking for two or three more people to volunteer to join the steering committee. We need one or two people to help with programmes & judging. We are also in need of someone to look after ribbons and awards.

We also need a head cashier to take responsibility for collecting money and using a Square for the administration of the Silent Auction.

We are looking for a massive group of people to help with all elements of the show. On Friday, we will need a set-up crew (about 10) & two shifts of Exhibitor Assistants. We will also need two shifts of front desk helpers to register entries & collect exhibit fees. An official photographer would be a big help for both days.

Saturday is the main event & open to the public. We will need Greeters, Gate Keepers (Indoor & Outdoor), Gofers as well as a crew to put everything away in the afternoon following the show.

For the outdoor portion of the event, we will need additional people to help with set-up & take down. We will also need sales people for our plant sales.

WE WILL REALLY NEED YOUR HELP! Please contact Al and Wendy to volunteer or to answer any questions about any of the volunteer positions.

Al Mikalishen

The Community Flower and Garden Show is a well-attended event in the Cowichan Valley, and we are asking for your help in continuing to make it so. We are asking you to please donate an item – goods, gift certificate or services - to our Silent Auction. After expenses, all money raised is donated to local community projects and charities.

This year we are calling on the Mill Bay Garden Club members to make a donation to the Silent Auction. Given the challenges over the past two years for many business owners we anticipate that the donations from business may be more limited than in the past.

Thank you for considering our request and we will provide more information on the process for donation in the next newsletter.

Mary Jean Morrison

This year the Flower and Garden Show steering committee has decided to ask for judges from the membership for the flower and vegetable entries. At the time we made this decision, we did not know where we would be in the Covid world and thought keeping things close to home would be best. We haven't changed our minds. All judges will have their names known only to me. Judging will be by the BC Council of Garden Clubs Standards as usual. We will require assistants for the judges too.

Gill Keir

Mill Bay Garden Tips: March - April 2022 by Barb Kohlman

- If you haven't cut down your warm season grasses, better do it soon before new growth has developed too far.
- Cut down group C Clematis to about 12". These are the late blooming clematis that bloom on new wood.
- Take cuttings of over-wintered Pelargoniums (tender geraniums) and Fuchsia's, and pot them up to encourage rooting. Pot them on to their summer locations when well-rooted.
- Remove leaves that were protecting beds over the winter---add them to your compost. Use them to mix with grass clippings once you start to mow.
- Prune Roses now --- Forsythia is in bloom, well almost time!!! We have been a bit cool.
- Throw a handful of Epsom salts on the root area of your rhodos and roses and other evergreen shrubs. This offers them some magnesium to help green up the leaves.
- You can lift and divide your snowdrops now as the blooms die, but before the leaves do. Replant, spacing out a bit and at least top dress with good compost.



Green Dreams by Fran Benton

Hello fellow garden enthusiasts!

This month's Cow Press article was for beginners, so hardly the kind of thing the garden club members enjoy. So I thought to myself, what are my fellow garden enthusiasts thinking of tonight? Seeds? Garden design? Possible plant treasures to purchase? How about the dream plant that we just can't grow here?

This reminded me about the lady that Liz and I talked to last week. She was at Dinters and was buying a Fajiola plant for her husband. Huh? Chimed both of us, what is a Fajiola? Well her husband is from New Zealand and missed eating the fruit of the Fajiola, the pineapple guava.



After consulting books, online articles, and Elaine, we discover that this is a delicious fruit that can be grown here but will never flower or produce fruit. I felt very sorry for the ladies' husband. Missing a plant is a very sad thing. After 2 years of the pandemic I miss every tropical plant there is. I also deeply miss big fat cactus and horribly spiny chollas. But here we are getting to the end of things and maybe soon we can go and see fantastic plants again.

I have to admit I have a plant bucket list (also a fossil bucket list). There are some plants that live in weird inaccessible parts of the world that I want to see. I don't want to see anymore ancient churches or cultural relics, I want to see the world's wildest weirdest plants (and rocks). Every time I watch any of David Attenborough's documentaries I find a whole pile of new plants I want to see. How about Welwitschia a truly bizarre plant that grows in the arid deserts of Namibia? Or the Dragon blood tree that grows on an island off Yemen? There are so many cool plants out there to see. Many years ago I had a chance to work in the arctic tundra. I was blown away by the concept of "open lichen woodland" where the grasses we are used to are replaced by a carpet of lichen. So on this cold miserable March night I am dreaming of all the cool plants I have yet to see. I hope your dreams are as green and as amazing!





GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2022

Via Zoom

7:01 p.m.: Talk on Rhododendrons and other plants found in China by Philip MacDougall

Call to Order at approximately 8:05p.m.

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

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

1. Presidents report: Bernie Juurlink – He reported the death of one of our Club members, Guy Lacasse and mentioned the upcoming tour of the Wildwood Ecoforest in April
2. Executive Committee Reports:
 - a. Community Flower and Garden Show – Gill Keir reported that the organizing crew is meeting the next day and all is in order.
 - b. “Sunshine Mary” Report: Janice Rose mentioned that Eli Santos was sent cards when Guy became ill and when he died. She also reported that Donna Kaiser had knee surgery. Elaine Scott then stated that she and Marie go to see Mary Gale at the Duncan Hospital. Mary is slowly recovering and very much appreciated the cards sent to her.
 - c. Vice President – Cliff Stainsby reported that because of a death in the family the speaker scheduled for February had to cancel and he is scrambling to find another speaker.
3. Virtual Bragg Table: Cliff Stainsby showed his gardening deftness by showing an African Violet. Janice Rose showed her Greater Snowdrops, Galanthus elwisii. Barb Kohlman showed hepatica and Fran showed cacti (?)
4. Garden-Related Questions: What to plant now. Cliff mentioned starting eggplants, peppers, chives, oregano, cauliflower and cabbage. Heather mentioned peas, the more snooty aubergine, potato chitting, shallots and garlic.
5. Cliff asked how to get rid of voles. Pip replied with mothballs.
6. Other business: Janice mentioned there is a Willow Chair Workshop on April 30th. One gets to make a willow chair. Cost is \$300 for the workshop.
7. Adjournment: Pip moved to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.