



# 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, May 24, 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!**

**May Speaker:**

**Danielle Bellefleur  
On Orchids**



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## **New Executive Members Still Needed!**

**It's getting urgent.** Elections to the new Executive take place at the AGM in June. Many position holders are willing to continue, but four important positions need to be filled: President, Vice-President and Coordinators for Kitchen and Plant Table.

Please have a read of Cliff Stainsby's letter to club members inside, and please consider volunteering for a position!

**The club can't exist without an executive!**

## **"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 - May 2022

Bernie Juurlink

A cool wet April followed by a cool wet May. I am sure that Gill is hoping this saying by Thomas Tusser will come true: "Sweet April showers do spring May flowers". On the bright side, with the slightly warmer nights and days we have bees starting to become interested in visiting our heather, apple and our weather-bedraggled rhododendron flowers.

Unfortunately, our Italian prune plum was blooming when few bees were out.

With small local Covid-19 outbreaks the executive felt it was best to have the general May meeting still via Zoom. However, since our Annual General Meeting is outdoors, we thought this would be a good time to meet in person. We are looking for a volunteer to offer his/her/their yard for this event. Please let me know if you are interested in offering your yard. Barbara and I would offer our yard but most of our front yard is comprised of flower beds while the backyard is sloping with much of it occupied by raised beds.

With Covid in mind we thought the AGM should be a BYOF&D&C event ((bring your own food & drinks & chair) – tables will be supplied. This will allow social interactions while minimizing the possibility of transmitting Covid-19. If it rains, the Club has two large tents that can be set up.

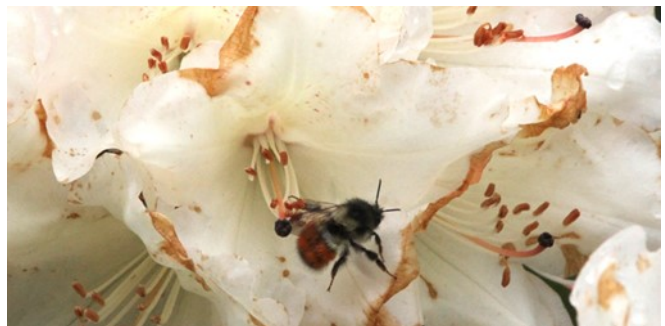
At the AGM we normally elect a new Executive. Fortunately, many on the Executive have elected to remain on if no one else is interested in the position they hold; however, we are looking for people who are willing to stand for: President, Vice President, Plant Sales and Kitchen. We are optimistic that we can

meet in person in the fall; hence, we do need someone to look after the kitchen.

A Club can only function if people are willing to step up to fill positions necessary in the running of the Club. A nearby Garden Club folded recently because people did not step up to be on the Executive. From personal experience I can tell you that if you are on the Executive, you will be interacting with a group of wonderful people.

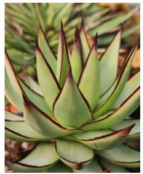
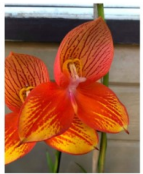
The Community Flower & Garden Show will be on May 28<sup>th</sup> with the set up being on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Please volunteer with the set-up, running and take-down of the Show if you have not already done so. And importantly, please enter as many exhibits as possible in Division I (Cut Flowers, Potted Plants and Vegetables & Herbs) as well as in Division II (Design). Instructions and Categories can be found on the Mill Bay Garden website under the category of 'Show' at: <http://www.millbaygardenclub.com/>. On Friday, volunteers will assist you in arranging your displays.

A major fund-raiser for the Club is the Silent Auction. Businesses have been hit by Covid-19 and not as many are donating to our Silent Auction; hence, we are depending upon Club members to step up and give donations for the Silent Auction.



## May 24, 2022, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda

- 1) 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Club member **Danielle Bellefleur** speaking on orchids - chaired by Cliff Stainsby
- 2) 8:00 p.m.: Club Business
  - a) Approval of the agenda
  - b) Approval of April 26, 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



# Plant SALE



Hosted by: Mark and Pauline  
FORMERLY OF SCENT-SATIONAL PLANTS

— Canadian Carnivorous Plants —  
— As It Grows —  
— Bryans Specialty Plants —



- Carnivorous Plants
- Orchids
- Perennials
- Succulents
- Trees & Shrubs
- Gesneriads
- Annuals
- Houseplants
- Pelargoniums
- And more!



**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
**MAY 28-29 10AM-2PM**



830  
SAYWARD ROAD  
Overflow Parking  
Fowler Park



Please note some vendors are cash only



## A Memo to the Club from Acting Vice-President Cliff Stainsby

Dear Members of the MBGC

We are all members of the Mill Bay Garden Club, a Club whose focus since inception (1985?) has been bringing people in the South Cowichan Valley together to talk and learn about gardening. We have a very successful and active Club, and we rely on members volunteering to join the Club Executive in order to facilitate Club activities, including - general meetings, fundraising, renting a meeting Hall, organizing garden tours, organizing an annual Community Flower and Garden Show, organizing plant sales, finding speakers for our meetings, and so on. This is a fair amount of work for just one or two people, but for an Executive of 14 people, the individual work loads become very manageable.

So, every year we ask members to step forward and join the Executive. This year 4 members are leaving the Executive. Although the expectation is terms of 2 years, the commitment is for only one year. And each year, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June we elect a new Executive. Prior to the AGM we seek volunteers to replace those who are stepping away from the Executive. We have always managed to elect a full Executive - generally 2 or 3 new people each year. This year, due to COVID, we have not been able to convene in-person meetings so communication has been greatly reduced.

**As a result, we have 4 Executive positions needing a new occupant - President, Vice President, Kitchen Coordinator, and Plant Sale Coordinator.**

To date, May 16, we have no nominations. So:

- Please consider putting your name forward for one of the positions
- If we don't have an Executive we won't have a Club
- None of the positions is onerous; executive members cooperate with and support each other
- Most of the Executive members will remain and they will support all new members
- It is always a convivial group
- No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help out is required

The Club is invariably supportive of its Executive - there is no need to fear the membership, they will support and help you. If you are willing to put your name forward simply send an email to me.

Please put your name forward.

Thanks

Cliff Stainsby

## Committee Reports

### Membership

Welcome to new members from nearby and far away!

Joining this month:

- Linda Roseneck
- Nicole Swinton

For your convenience, there will be a Membership table at the MBGC Show and Sale for new members as well as for those who haven't had the opportunity to pay this past year's dues and/or 2023-2023 dues.

*Thank you in advance,  
Pat Spezowka*



### Flower & Garden Show Updates

#### **SILENT AUCTION**

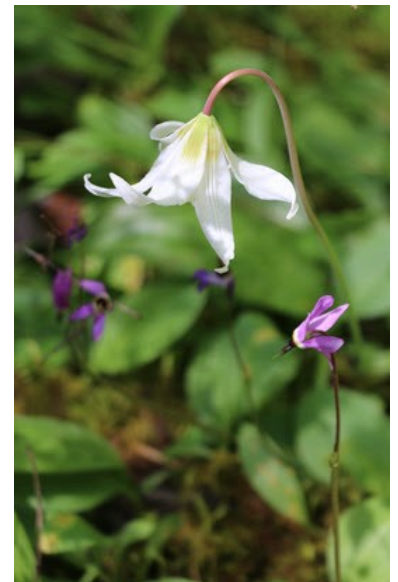
Thank you to members who have already donated to the Silent Auction. We encourage more members to make a donation. The Silent Auction is an important fundraiser for the local charities.

*Mary Jean Morrison, Silent Auction*

#### **STORAGE for FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW**

#### **Equipment - NEEDED BY MAY 28th.**

Storage is required for the plastic bins and signs that are needed for the annual Flower and Garden Show. Space needed is 85" L x 85" W by 65" H . The need is immediately after the end of the show on May 28th. There will be no extension at the current storage site.



## Committee Reports etc

### A Suggestion for the Silent Auction

Glenda Wilkinson has volunteered 3 hours of garden work and would like to connect with 2 others willing to do the same, so the work could be marketed as ten hours worth. Perhaps a few plant suggestions and/or ideas could be offered as well.

### Library Report

Please check out the book sale at the Flower and Garden Show on May 28. Donations for books will go to the MBGC Bursary fund.

Please hunt down borrowed library books and return them to Janice Rose. It's time to get our collection back to our library!

*Your friendly librarian,  
Janice Rose*

### 2022 Bursary Update

The Bursary committee, consisting of Janice Rose, Carolyn Morris, Al Mikalishen and Ann Baty, reviewed nine applications from our two local high schools. The quality of these candidates was so impressive! Not only have these grade 12 students worked hard for their stellar marks in school, but they have shown keen interest in community volunteering for a variety of plant-related ecological and environmental projects or clubs. Many had been conditionally accepted at UVic, UBC or VIU for post secondary programs. We received no applications from students at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific this year.

The committee would like to express appreciation to Norman Redcliffe whose plant sale proceeds generously assist with bolstering the bursary fund. Our club's annual Flower Show is the major fundraiser for the bursary fund. In our first year back after Covid restricted us from having a Flower Show for two years and given the unseasonably cool and late spring we are still experiencing, the committee decided to take a conservative approach. Only one winner will be announced after the school awards ceremony in June. Watch the June newsletter for the 2022 MBGC Bursary winner announcement.

*Ann Baty*

## Committee Reports etc

### 2022 Garden Tours

We are looking for members to volunteer their gardens for tours this spring and summer. Melanie Fiander will organize this year's tours. There is no criteria or previewing involved. Please don't think that your garden needs to be perfect to add it to the tour. It's exciting and encouraging to see what fellow members are doing in their gardens, big or small, new or established, and reassuring to see that it may not be perfect.

*Melanie*

### Upcoming Events

- Our very own Mill Bay Garden Club's **Community Flower and Garden Show** takes place on Saturday 28 May, from 9am til 2pm at the Cobble Hill Hall. For details, see the poster at the end of this newsletter.
- **Mid Island Floral Art Club meeting** Thursday June 9, 2:00, St Stephen's Church, 150 Village Way, Qualicum Beach, "Ikebana demonstration and workshop." Guests \$6.00



*A Calypso Orchid, photo by Barbara Juurlink on a hike near Cobble Hill Mountain on May 13th. Barbara also took the photos on pages 1 & 5.*

## Mill Bay Garden Club Tips - May 2022 by Barb Kohlman

- Manure water poured around spring blooming perennials will often produce larger flowers (maybe a little late for this year but results will show next year). I have used Grassoline All Purpose Fish Fertilizer... and think it works well.
- Continue planting succession crops of vegetables as soon as the first crops appear above the ground. Am I correct in this Bill????
- Indulge your winged friends to the treat of a birdbath. Keep it clean and filled.
- Stake peonies now that the buds are forming. For larger blooms take off the small side buds.
- Dahlia and Canna tubers may now be safely planted.
- Newly planted trees and shrubs will benefit from a mulch of fine bark mulch to protect against the summer sun (if we ever get any). Not too close to the trunk though.
- You may need to stake delphiniums and gladiolas now.
- Tender annual vines can be set out now. If you have overwintered tubed plants they can be moved out now. Top with some rich soil and liquid manure/organic fertilizer.
- Now that they are in bloom is the time to decide which irises you will keep, and which you will discard or share. Depends on the quality of each plant and how well it is flowering.
- I am enjoying the poppies that have reseeded abundantly in my front garden. Time to share some when they are finished blooming, thinking to move them to the MBGC garden.



Happy "warmer" weather!!!

Barb Kohlman



## Going Buggy by Fran Benton

This cold spring we are having is just madness but also kind of funny. It gives us all a chance to complain bitterly about the weather. Those of us who propagate plants have big backups in the greenhouse, as it's too cold to put plants out. The tulips are still blooming as well as the odd daffodil... and its mid spring!

The great joy we should celebrate is that BUG season has not started yet. In nature the big green rush of spring is always followed by the big brown rush of bug life. Yes I know they are technically called insects but in my house they are referred to as bugs. And not by me. In manspeak a beehive is a box of bugs, and ant mound is a hill of bugs, a spider web is, well the expletives over that we will just skip. Personally I love insects and can't wait to see what nature flings out for us to see this year. Last year it was the attack of the giant bugs (June beetles everywhere), the year before it was clouds of tiny bugs (baby spiders riding past holding onto their first webs, and god only knows what kind of bugs we will experience this year. Secretly, honestly I would like to see a murder hornet, But not in my yard, maybe someone's yard in Nanaimo. The granddaddy of all bugs was in our yard several years ago, a giant bark beetle. I am not kidding; this thing was 2 inches long and hissed at you. The larva is almost as long and you would swear it came from the African savannah. It was so big it scared the cat! Mr. Handsome referred to this beetle as a giant mother bug. And then he went inside, as it was simply all too much bugginess for him.



Last week I was at the local garden centre and I was looking at the wall of insecticides. I sighed and thought how frustrating this all was because we shell out buckets of money to kill insects and sometimes it just doesn't work. For example: APHIDS. I really am amazed by the way aphids live. Do you know an aphid can be sucking the juice out of your plant's stems and popping baby aphids out the rear at the same time? Aphids are parthenogenetic, meaning they don't need males to produce babies. What? Yes, aphids, bees, ants, some sharks and lizards can reproduce this way! Aphids produce hundreds of babies each day. This



can make a big mess out of your plants! Best insecticide for aphids? No insecticide, squish them and use gentle jets of water to hose them off and clean your hands. I find the insecticidal soaps often damage the plant and other sprays end up killing all the beneficial insects. You can use pyrethrum, the product of chrysanthemums, but does it really help? If you can catch the infestation before it multiplies you can remove the stems that are affected.

Bag and bin them, no composting!

I must tell you about one of the best bugs I've found in years. I like dirt a lot and was digging up something for who knows what reason

when I turned out a big spider. Not just any spider, this dude was a five-alarm monster beast! As I scooped him up for a look I realized this was unusual and grabbed my camera and took a picture. A short riffle through a big book of bugs turned up his identity – he was a trapdoor spider! Although unusual, trapdoor spiders are not that uncommon here. We just rarely get to see them. I guess I dug up his burrow and trapdoor too. Sorry about that buddy! Happy gardening, and remember to relax and watch for bugs!



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 26, 2022

Via Zoom

Call to order : 7:58p.m.

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

Acceptance of Minutes from March 22, 2022 – moved by Pip and seconded by Monika

Comments – no changes

Bernie Juurlink: Wildwood Eco tour will be Saturday May 7. Bernie will send out a notice to those attending to confirm.

Cliff Stainsby: nothing to report.

Gord Hamilton: nothing to report.

Bernie says plant sale needs more volunteers to set up tents and tables Friday and Saturday and to sell plants and for take down on Saturday. Anything you can split or dig up from your yard would be appreciated. Drop to Bernie's house any afternoon in May, 683 Butterfield.

Monika: hellebores, snowdrops, primulas available from her house.

Gillian: volunteers are stepping up for the Flower and Garden show but more needed.

Katherine: Memorial Garden update, 6 yards of topsoil dropped. Some trees and shrubs removed. Volunteers needed to weed and prep and spread soil. Barb has prepared layout. Suggest work party Saturday 30th late afternoon. Bring tools. Possibly Friday 10 AM.

Melanie: nothing to report.

### Brag Table

- Janice Rose: tulips, daffodils, Monika's iris... created beautiful Spring bouquet
- Cliff: will we have in person meeting in May? We will decide at executive meeting in May less space.

Bernie calls to adjourn. Monika seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.