



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, November 22nd, 2022**

Time: **7pm** (doors open 6:30pm)

Place: **Mill Bay Community League Hall**
(1001 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road)

Activities:

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



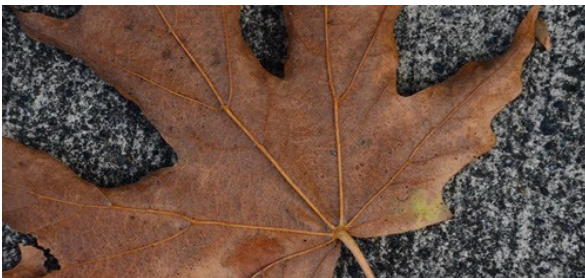
November Brag Table Theme:

Sodden Surprises

With plant and flower identification and commentary provided by Barb Kohlman, the Brag Table is a great part of our monthly meetings. It's a fun and interactive way to share what's going on in your garden. The bonus is a prize awarded randomly to one of the monthly participants. If you've never participated, give it a fling, be it flower, vegetable or fungus!

November Speaker: Abby Hyde on Native Plants in the Urban Context

See page 3 for details



A little ray of sunshine...

Club member and Librarian Janice Rose has stepped into the shoes filled for so many years by Mary Gale. Janice will send cards to members experiencing illness or loss on behalf of the Club, bringing a spot of sunshine into 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 Janice know and she will send a card on our behalf.



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President's Report

Gill Keir

Hello all.

The Executive still needs someone to handle the Kitchen Committee. For more information, please phone me. Thank you.

We have decided to cancel this year's Xmas party.

Even though the membership attending the October meeting voted in support of holding it, the Executive now feels that with the flu and covid viruses starting to increase, and the fact that we need our faces clear to eat, they aren't a good combination. All going well, the Xmas

party Elves will be replaced by Easter Bunnies – date not yet chosen.

We will still require masks for the November meeting. The club will provide some for those who forget theirs and there is hand sanitizer available too.

Someone forgot a stainless steel coffee mug at the September meeting. I will put it into the Raffle if it isn't claimed at the next meeting.

See you next week,

Gill



November 2022, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda (Tentative)

- 1) 7:00 p.m.: Club Business
 - a) Approval of the agenda
 - b) Approval of the minutes of October 2022 Club general meeting
 - c) President's Report – Gill Keir
 - d) Executive Committee reports
 - e) Brag Table
 - f) Garden-related Questions with our Master Gardeners
 - g) Questions for the Executive?
 - h) Adjournment
- 2) 8:00 p.m. Speaker: **Abby Hyde on Native Plants**

October's Speaker (Tuesday, November 22):

Abby Hyde on Native Plants in the Urban Context

Abigail Hyde, BSc, started at Satinflower Nurseries in 2021. She discovered her passion for observing native species and restoring degraded ecosystems while growing up in Bali, Indonesia. She made the long move from Indonesia to Victoria in 2016 to pursue a BSc in Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria. During her four-year program, her love for tropical and aquatic plants translated to a newfound love of the native plants of British Columbia. She now heads orders at the nursery and does consultations for meadowscaping projects.

Abby will speak about the importance of native plants with particular attention paid to their ability to restore and enhance habitat within the urban context. The talk will highlight ways in which individuals can convert their properties into pollinator-friendly landscapes and how native plants restore biodiversity. Garry Oak Ecosystems will be used as a case study to highlight particular pollinator-to-plant relationships. At the end of the presentation, there will be an opportunity to have a close-up look at some of the plants outlined in the presentation.

Pop Up Sale Coming Up!

The Christmas Pop-Up Sale is popping up again this year. Our work bee will be on November 23 & 24 and the sale will be held at Pat & Alex Spezowka's home again from December 1-4.

Volunteers are needed for Christmas Pop-up Sale workshop. No special talents needed. A big part of the preparation is piecework. We are working outside in a sheltered area on cement so dress warm, bring a lunch and join in the fun and fellowship. Beverages provided. November 23 & 24 are the main workshop days but if you can't come these days we will be working for several days afterwards and you are very welcome to join us. If you are talented in the floral arrangement area and can't make the workshops we can provide you with supplies so you can create some arrangements for the sale at home. Please email or call Pat if you are coming. Contact info is under Committee Leads, Membership in this newsletter.

Please keep us in mind if you trim your evergreens later this November. We can use all those trimmings for our creations. We also need ribbons, bobbles, pine cones, and bangles to decorate the wreaths so if your Christmas decoration collection needs downsizing we will be happy to give them a new home. All sale monies, after expenses, go to the club and really help with our donations to the community.

Monika and Pat

Committee Reports

Notes from the Library

What's your latest gardening passion? Do you need new inspiration? Are you curious about the latest gardening rage? Ponder no more! Let me know what your needs are and I will find the latest publications to bring you joy!

As always, here's my usual rant.....you all know this one. Please return any outstanding/overdue books asap.

*Your friendly librarian,
Janice Rose*



Plant Sales

Hello everyone,

November will be our last meeting before the Christmas break and a good opportunity to go through your garden one last time. Hopefully you will find a few treasures for the Plant Sale Table. Remember, please put your plants in pots and label with name and colour if known.

This month...

Monika Morgan sent along a note that we will have kiwis for sale, 5 for \$1.00, generously donated by friends of the Jenkins.

Lastly Pat Spezowka has asked me to remind everyone about "greens" for the upcoming Wreath Workshop. If you have trimmings such as evergreens, holly, branches with berries, etc, please bring them along to the meeting. You can drop them off at the Plant Sale Table and Pat will take them home for the workshop.

Okay friends, thanks again for all your generous plant donations and hope to see you at the meeting.

Enjoy the sunny days ahead.

Kathleen and Carrie



Committee Reports (continued)

Membership

Thanks to everyone that has renewed their 2022/23 membership and welcome to our new members.

We ask everyone to wear a name tag at our meetings so we can get to know everyone and remember your names. Name tags will be supplied at the membership table where you come in. If you prefer a permanent name tag we can order one for you. \$11 for the magnetic and \$8 for the pin.

At September's executive meeting we made the decision that all the people on our list will receive our newsletter until the end of December 2022. After that only members in good standing will be on the newsletter list.

We will be taking renewals before the meeting and during coffee break again next week.

Pat Spezowka

Membership

Registration is open for



Mixing it up

EVOLVING GARDENS | 2023

Saturday January 21 | 9 to 4:30 | Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney BC

When the 100-mile diet will meet the 100-mile conference!

Five local speakers will offer possibilities for our changing climate:

- Your garden is an ecosystem | Gord Baird
- It all starts with the soil | Dr. Barbara Hawkins
- Planting for resilience | Linda Petite
- Foodscaping the future | Josh Wagler
- New beginnings | Egan Davis

Conference fee:

Early Bird fee until November 30, 2022	\$80
Regular fee from December 1, 2022	\$100
Recordings Only fee (for 30 days after the conference)	\$40

"Bring your own lunch and mug" will extend the green theme.

Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided at breaks.

Vendors and a Silent Auction will add excitement to the day.

Find conference details at mixingitup.org

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB



Add some Christmas joy to your home with handmade wreaths, stars, swags, centerpieces and a selection of loose greens



- * Items are outdoors on a covered deck
- * Cash or cheque only
- * Wearing a mask is mandatory
- * Please park on the street

All proceeds go to the charities our club supports



SHOPPING DATES
Thursday, Dec. 01 to
Sunday, Dec. 04, 2022
10am - 4pm



Upcoming Events

- Christmas Pop-Up Sale, Thursday 1 December to Sunday 4 December, 10am to 4pm. See note within for further details.
- Registration is open for the Victoria Master Gardeners' Mixing it up - Evolving Gardens 2023. The event will be held at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney on Saturday 21 January, from 9am to 4:30pm. Early bird registration ends 30 November. Early bird \$80 / Regular \$100. See poster previous page.

Gardening Tips for November

by Barb Kohlman

Was in my garden (Monday) this week---not uncomfortable and a good time to do some cleanup---so be aware that "winter" is not quite here and if nothing else, try to enjoy the sunshine while walking around your space.

From Linda Gilkeson's book Resilient Gardens 2017, here are a few tips to think about when you are planning new spaces this winter, for next years "successes".

Pollinating insects face a variety of pests. A huge one is a loss of natural habitat. Even deer can browse down the native plants and where invasive plants have taken over.

You can aid pollinators by increasing the amount and variety of food available, providing nest sites and protecting them from pesticides.

The highest number of bees can be found in gardens with a mix of native and non-native plants. And dandelions can host a great variety of wild bee species. (Have you got room for a few?)

It is important to have pollen and nectar plants in bloom between mid-summer through fall. Though here in the coastal regions spring is also a very important time. A few trees would be arbutus, native willows, maples, alder !!! and fruit trees.

Since bumble bees don't store honey, they depend on a daily supply of food. For these, and other later season pollinators, flowers that bloom from July to October are very valuable.

From page 13:

Here are some pollinator plants you may find around your property that are already helping.

GOLDENROD---LAVENDERS---YARROWS---CATMINT---BLACK-EYED SUSAN---PURPLE CONEFLOWER---DOUGLAS ASTERS---SPIREA---CALIFORNIA LILAC---TALL OREGON GRAPE (NATIVE)---WOOLY SUNFLOWER(NATIVE)---PENTSTEMONS---STONECROP---COASTAL STRAWBERRY (NATIVE)---OVERSEED LAWNS WITH CLOVER !!! . Hope this gets you thinking and if we do not have the Resilient Gardens Book in our library I will get one from Linda.

Cheers barb k





GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

7:00 pm, October 25, 2022

President Gil Keir called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Gil presented the "Aggregate Winner's Trophy" to Barbara Kohlman. She should have received this at the May Flower and Garden Show.

Janice Rose moved approval of the Agenda: seconded by Katherine Miller.

Monika Morgan moved approval of the minutes of the September General Meeting: seconded by Mary-Jean Morrison.

President's Report: Gil asked the membership for their thoughts on having a Christmas Party this year. This was approved by a show of hands. If the hall is available the party will be held on December 6.

Executive Committee Reports:

Membership: Pat Spezowka reported that we have 93 paid members and one new member, Christopher Garland. She also said she will contact the person who used to make our name badges to see if he is still in business. She will report at the next meeting.

The past two years Pat and Monika have hosted a Christmas workshop where they and other volunteers make wreaths, swags and centre pieces. Last year they made almost \$1700.00 for the club. They will host this year's event at Pat's house on November 24 and 25. The sale will be on December 1 to 4. Pat would like members to trim their evergreen trees in late November and donate the trimmings. She can also use unwanted Christmas decorations.

Treasurer: Gord Hamilton reported that we have \$2300.00 in the bank; \$1000.00 in the bursary fund and a term deposit of \$1000.00.

Website: Gord reported that the web site need updating and now that the cooler weather is here he will be able to do it.

Raffle: Monika is taking over from Stephanie tonight. We have three beautiful garden ornaments donated by Dustin Carlson which will be raffled off. Tickets are 3 for a dollar.

Memorial Gardens: Katherine with the help of volunteers, has tidied up the Memorial Garden, ready for winter.

Library and Sunshine: Janice reported that Bernie and Barbara Juurlink have donated two books to the library - Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer and a book on Seeds by Thor Hanson. Carrie Nelson has also donated a number of books including a Master Gardener's book on sustainable gardening.

Janice has purchased a subscription to Jacquie Lawson in order to send e cards to those who are ill or bereaved. If you do not care for Lawson cards please let her know and she will make a note to send a real live card.

Plant Table: Tonight we have lots of plants. We also welcome bulbs that are potted up. If you have a request for a plant please let us know and we will try to find it.

Newsletter: If you did not get a Newsletter please let Dave know and send him your current email address.

Vice-President: Richard Nelson said that he is still ironing out problems with the equipment but everything should be fixed by next meeting.

Brag Table: Barb Kohlman reminded those who bring plants to the brag table to please put your name on them . Tonight there were dahlias, a white poppy, roses, salvia and hydrangeas. There was also a beautiful display of colourful leaves

Questions:

- 1) Janice asked if now was the right time to put organic fertilizer on rhododendrons. Probably it will do no harm since it is organic.
- 2) What to do about mildew on azaleas? It is a powder mildew from the dry conditions
- 3) Is hay with mold on it good for garden mulch? Spread it over the ground as a ground cover.

Tonight the executive brought wrapped snacks for members. The executive will decide how to handle snacks next month and will send the information out in the Newsletter.

The meeting broke at 7:50 PM for refreshments. It was reconvened at 8:10 PM

Dustin Carlson drew tickets for the three garden ornaments. They were won by Gwen Redcliffe, Barb Jensen and Deborah Leskiw.

Dustin then gave a presentation on Landscape Design, with an emphasis on how we have to adapt in the face of climate change.

Janice Rose moved adjournment at 9:10 PM