



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, January 24th, 2023**

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!**



January Brag Table Theme:

Winter Wonders

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!

January Speaker:

**Trevor Reid on
FireSmart
for the Garden**

See page 3 for details



The Club Executive asks members to continue wearing a mask at all times (except eating and drinking) while in the Hall.

Thanks - this too shall pass!

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Meeting Helpers:

Kitchen Helpers: Volunteer/s* wanted for this meeting! (See page 5)

* *please arrive by 6:30.*



Remember to bring your mug for coffee/tea!

President's Message

Gill Keir

Happy New Year everyone.

We will keep the mask requirement in place for the January meeting. There will be masks available and hand sanitizer. We will have the kitchen open this month too. I would like to thank Judy Raimondo for volunteering for that job, and she will have put some information about it in this news letter.

The 2023 Flower and Garden Show committee is set to meet this week and I will speak about it at this month's meeting.

My fruit trees had their hair cut yesterday and they are looking good. So, another gardening year begins.

Gill

January 2023, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda

- 1) 7:00 p.m.: Club Business
 - a) Approval of the agenda
 - b) Approval of the minutes of November 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: **Trevor Reid on FireSmart with a focus on the garden**



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.

Janice's number is 250-743-5897



January's Speaker (Tuesday, January 24):

Trevor Reid on FireSmart for Gardeners

Trevor Reid, Mill Bay Fire Dept. Fire Prevention Officer and CVRD FireSmart Coordinator will speak on FireSmart with a focus on the garden aspect.

This time of year is always a busy one for FireSmart, the snow has mostly melted across BC and people are getting back out in their yards and neighbourhoods. It's a critical time for us to communicate our message of wildfire preparedness and mitigation, before wildfire season comes. With that in mind, we've launched a full spring awareness campaign, have officially welcomed a new team member on board and are gearing up for our first FireSmart BC Symposium.

Upcoming Events...

Victoria Master Gardeners' **Mixing it up-Evolving Gardens 2023.**

The event will be held **this Sunday** at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney on **Saturday 21 January, from 9am to 4:30pm**. Regular registration: \$100. Find conference details at mixingitup.org.

19th Annual Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday (2023)

Saturday, February 4, 2023, 10:00 a.m. — 3:30 pm. at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones St, Qualicum Beach, BC

Seed Vendors, Plant Vendors & other Participants, Seed Swap, Master Gardeners, Seedy Cafe, Door Prizes & Two 50/50 Draws
Please Note: Ticket holders **MUST** be present to win — so if you can't stay for the draws, give your ticket to someone you trust so that they can collect your prize money for you if you win.

Admission by Donation

Other: Town of Qualicum Beach truck in parking lot to collect pesticides/herbicides

Contact: Murray Chantler, Publicity Coordinator Email: publicity@qbseedysaturday.ca

Website: www.qbseedysaturday.ca.

Executive Members

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Past-President:

Bernie Juurlink

Committee Leads

Membership:

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Cont'd next page...

Committee Reports

Notes from the Library

News flash! For the first time since the start of the Pandemic we will have new and up to date gardening books available. The latest additions to our collection will be purchased at the 2023 Mixing It up Conference on January 21. These books will be relevant for our current and future soil and climate conditions. Come and check it out!

*Your friendly librarian,
Janice Rose*



Plant Sales

Happy New Year Everyone,
Looking forward to a great new year in 2023. There might not be too much to see yet in the garden but the light is returning and soon our gardens will be awakening. If you have any plants or garden related items that you would like to contribute, please bring them to the Plant Sale Table at the January 24th meeting. Remember, please put your plants in pots and label with name and colour if known.

...on another note, I have been asked to take over running the Plant Sale Table at the Mill Bay Flower & Garden Show. I am hoping that there will be some members that can help with the sale. This can be anything from potting up a few plants from your garden, starting extra sets of flowers and veggies and/or volunteering to help in the days leading up to the show. I will be passing around a sheet at the meeting for those that would like to help.

Thanks
Kathleen

Committee Leads *(cont'd)*

Memorial Garden

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Social Media

If you use Facebook, don't forget to check

us out and "LIKE" us at:

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

Pauline Dueck

Facebook Coordinator



Committee Reports (continued)

Kitchen News

We are ready to open the kitchen again for tea and coffee at the break. For a small donation, decaf coffee and regular and herbal teas will be on offer as well as some snacks provided by club volunteers. Please remember to BRING YOUR OWN MUG. We would also appreciate the assistance of one more volunteer to help us pour at the meeting.

Please contact me if you are able to help or bring along some goodies to share:

judyeraimondo@gmail.com.

Judy

**We are so grateful
for your incredible
support!**

*Through the generosity
of donors like you,
our clients continue
to receive the support
and care they need.
We are so grateful!
Wishing you a warm
and happy holiday.*

**COWICHAN
WOMEN AGAINST
VIOLENCE
SOCIETY**

GWAV SOCIETY
246 EVANS STREET
DUNCAN BC,
V9L1P8



*Mill Bay Garden Club
683 Butterfield Rd
Mill Bay, BC
V0R 2P4*



Received from the Cowichan Women Against Violence Society:

“Through the generosity of donors like you, our clients continue to receive the support and care they need. We are so grateful! Wishing you a warm and happy holiday.”

Gardening Tips for January/February 2023

by Barb Kohlman

Have you managed to do any gardening this season?

I have removed some overwintering leaf cover and relegated it to the compost.

This is allowing for the positive view of snowdrops, hellebores (just starting to poke up their blooms---so cut off all old leaves for a better display), winter aconite and even some primulas.



Complete any trimming of perennials if/when you find the day providing some warmth and also (hopefully) some dry time. Remove dead canes from rose bushes and dead limbs from trees and shrubs.

January is a good time to pore over garden catalogs and get orders submitted for spring gardening.

Check for frost heaves around your outdoor plants and apply additional mulch as needed. I have found this is needed in my garden.

If you have received a poinsettia plant (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) for Christmas, put it in a window where it gets as much direct light as possible and do keep it watered.

If you are storing bulbs, corms, or tubers, check them to make sure that they are neither rotting nor too dry.

On to sunny days!!!!!!!!!!!!

Barb K.

Boulder Gardens by Fran Benton

When ever I travel I always think of climate and microclimate in our gardens. Now climate is the thing we can't do much about. It rains, it snows, and it does it's usual wet coast/drought coast thing. Microclimate, however is something we can control. Think about it in your own garden. I am sure you have played musical chairs with a plant that can't seem to have the right spot to grow in. I have a sumac that has been dug up and moved at least 3 times. I was about to shovel prune it into the compost when my garden buddy said "Hey, let's move it over by the fence". Hmmm... I thought, this might not end well, but hey let's try. Well let me tell you it is thriving. Its all about microclimate and soil moisture. The fence area is a tiny bit more protected and has a bit more moisture.



As I write this sitting in the middle of a desert I am thinking a lot about moisture and exposure. Currently in early January it is pouring rain and howling wind. In a desert. Yes, I agree, this is just weird!

Nothing about climate seems a given anymore and I am sure we gardeners get less surprised every day! So perhaps it is time to look at our gardens and map out the wet areas, dry areas, sunny and shady areas with more attention than

usual. The other thing to consider is plant spacing. In a drier part of your garden maybe you need to space plants out a bit more so every plant gets a better crack at getting a drink. What I am learning from sitting in the desert is the use of stones and boulders to help the plants in terms of shade, spacing, and moisture. As I walk around I notice that the plants grow in the lee of the adjacent boulders. The dead branches provide shade and protection. This strikes me as a good strategy for the summer gardens as our climate warms.

Some people here do a pile of stones rather than boulders. That is smart because it would provide a place for bugs and other small garden helpers to hide, as well as being a lot less heavy to transport! Speaking of smart, I am sure a lot of garden club members think about how big a stone is before they transport it to a new site. Full disclosure here, years ago I rolled a monster boulder into a new part of the garden. It was many times to big to lift but I wanted it in a different location and I am very very stubborn. Rather than asking for help I rolled and pulled it to its new location. Something (that was not part of the garden or boulder) went SNAP! I had torn a ligament in my shoulder. Much physiotherapy a whole whole world of pain later I decided that future boulders would need mechanical assistance or I would be forced to ask for help. I hate asking for help. Future boulders were yanked into place with the help of my truck and a come-along. Later yet I decided to accept the inevitable and accept the boulders where they were and plant around them. And yes, I know you can hire someone to do it but where is the fun (Pain) in that? One other thing I noticed about boulders here is that underneath it is damp. Hmm, new strategy, more piles of rock are going around the plants in the garden! New philosophy- less garden work, more garden smart! We'll see how that goes! Happy garden planning!



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

7:00 pm, November 22, 2022

President Gillian Keir called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Norman Redcliffe moved approval of the agenda; seconded by Richard Nelson

There being no errors or omissions David Byrnes moved approval of the minutes of the General meeting of October 25, 2022; seconded by Monika Morgan.

The president said that there would be no Christmas party this year due to the ongoing concerns with Covid and the flu.

Treasurer Gord Hamilton reported that we currently have \$2439.00 in chequing; \$1000.00 in the bursary fund and \$1059.00 in a term deposit.

Kathleen Mercer thanked everyone for their donations to the plant table.

Vice President: Richard Nelson announced that we now have a microphone that works well.

Library: We were reminded to sign out the books we borrow; and when they are returned, please mark off your name.

Membership: Pat Spezowka said that we have one new member tonight, Joanne Harris. Another recent new member is Ina Kennedy. Currently we have 105 paid members.

Pat also reminded us that the workshop to make Christmas decorations begins at her home tomorrow and will continue until Sunday, Anyone who wants to come and help is very welcome. Volunteers bring your own gloves, secateurs and lunch. Drinks will be provided. Alex has covered the bottom part of their deck so it will be protected from the weather and there are heaters. All funds raised from this will be go back into the community so by donating your time you are giving back to the community.

Stephanie Taylor on the Raffle table said that there were several good prizes tonight. In future she would welcome some baking to use as a prize.

Kitchen: We still need a kitchen person. If you would like to volunteer for this position please call or email Gill.

Brag Table: There are still some flowers blooming this late in the year.. Tonight's table featured a beautiful fuchsia, snap dragons, a fall coloured bouquet and some roses. There was also a Himalayan honeysuckle (leycesteria formosa) and the dried stalk of a very impressive cardiocrinum gigantum (Himalayan Lily) from last season. Seeds for the latter were available.

Garden Related Questions: Is the Desert King fig a hardy plant? Yes it is. You can get information online from Bob Duncan in Victoria on how to prune it.

The meeting broke at 7:32 for refreshments and reconvened at 8:00PM. The raffle tickets were drawn and Alex Spezowka won two of the prizes.

Once again we had technical difficulties. Abby Hyde of Satinflower Nursery in Victoria was our speaker. She was born on Bali and studied at the University of Victoria . She is currently a meadow scaping consultant and spoke to us about native plants and their ability to amend the habitat.

Paper nametags that were issued at the beginning of the meeting were returned to be reused at the next meeting.

Gwen Redcliffe moved adjournment at 8:40 PM.