



# MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

Email: [mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com)

## Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, May 23rd, 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!**



## May Speaker:

**Lora Morandin, PhD**

**Pollinators: The Wings of Life**

See p 4 for details



## End of Club Year Elections!

It will soon be that time of year again when a new Executive gets elected at our AGM on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

If anyone is interested in being on the Executive, please let me know, particularly if you can run a Facebook page.

Bernie Juurlink

Email: [bjuurlink@gmail.com](mailto:bjuurlink@gmail.com)

## May Brag Table Theme:

### Fragrant May

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. If you've never participated, give it a fling, be it flower, vegetable or fungus!

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## Meeting Helpers

**Kitchen Helpers:** Looking for TWO people to step forward with goodies!



*Please contact Judy Raimondo if you can't make it.*

**Bring your mug for coffee or tea!**

**\* Helpers, please arrive by 6:30 \***

## President's Report - May 2023

Gillian Keir

For the past couple of years, I have let my grass grow until around the middle of May, to enable the bees and butterflies to have some flowers until the trees and bushes bloom and the garden starts up. While not a thing of beauty, it is interesting to see what comes up. Many clumps of English daisies, even more dandelions, and a carpet of small blue flowers. This year's surprise was a daffodil where no one would plant one. Last year, a tiny walnut tree. My squirrels I assume.

The AGM is when we elect the Executive. Bernie Juurlink is going to conduct the election this year, so please send your name and the name of the position you would like to occupy to him. Or, to Dave Byrnes and Dave will send it to Bernie. You will find the list of executive positions and committee leads on the right-hand side of the newsletter. One committee that isn't listed is the Flower & Garden Show, and that will be vacant.

See you next week.

*Gill*



### May 2023 Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda

- 1) 7:00 p.m.: Club Business
  - a) Approval of the agenda
  - b) Approval of the minutes of April 2023 Club general meeting
  - c) President's Report – Gill Keir
  - d) Executive Committee reports
  - e) Brag Table - Theme: Fragrant May
  - f) Garden-related Questions with our Master Gardeners
  - g) Questions for the Executive?
  - h) Adjournment
- 2) 8:00 p.m. Speaker: **Lora Morandin: Pollinators, The Wings of Life**



## Former MBGC Member in the News

One of our former Garden Club members, Shirley Bellows, will be featured in an article in the Globe and Mail on Saturday, May 20. The reason for the Globe's interest in Shirley is the work that she has done making sure that the Blue Jay bean is alive and well.

The blue jay bean seeds are a beautiful dark purple splashed with pink. The name of the bean comes from its flowers which are a lovely blue/lavender colour. Shirley started growing these heritage beans in the 1990's and, after a few hiccups, has been able to maintain a seedy supply of them. This beautiful bean has an exceptional flavour and is worthy of being more widely grown.

Shirley is an active member of Seeds of Diversity Canada and believes strongly in the need for all of us to work together to maintain the greatest genetic diversity possible in our food. I do not want to steal any of the information that Shirley has provided to the reporter so make sure that you read more about the work that Shirley has undertaken in next Saturday's Globe. Also note that the Blue Jay seeds are now being sold through Hope Seeds.

Congratulation, Shirley, for a great result of all of your hard work.



## May's Speaker (Tuesday, May 23th):

**Lora Morandin, PhD**

### **Pollinators: The Wings of Life**

Lora is Associate Director at the Pollinator Partnership in San Francisco. Visit [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org) for details.

Lora will discuss the wonderful world of pollinators: who they are, how they came to be, why they're important to humans and the world, and the troubles they are currently facing. She will then talk about how people can help them and some of the amazing diversity and types to look out for in your own garden.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Membership**

Happy spring everyone.

Our paid membership is now 129. There will be a membership table at the Flower and Garden Show on June 3, 2023. You will be able to sign up for the 2023/24 season there.

Summer events are coming up and we now have confirmation that we will have a table at the Cobble Hill Fair August 26, 2023. I will be needing 4 volunteers to take shifts manning our table. The job is easy. You just visit with interested people and hand out the garden club information.

Anyone wanting the permanent name tags let me know at our next meeting and I will have them for you by the June meeting. Magnet backs are \$11.00, pin backs are \$8.00

*Pat Spezowka*  
*Membership*  
*Coordinator*



## Committee Reports (cont.)

### Notes from the Library

May's meeting in our last one at the hall before the summer break. Please feel free to borrow books during the summer break and return them in September.

Some library books will be available for sale by donation at the Flower and Garden Show on June 3. All proceeds go towards purchasing new publications for our library. Come and check this out!

*Your friendly librarian,  
Janice Rose*

## Coming Events

### Mill Bay Garden Club Flower Show and Plant Sale, June 3

June 3, 2023. 9am-2pm. This well-established community event is held each year at the Farmer's Institute Hall in Cobble Hill. Included in this event are a great display of flowers and vegetables that have been submitted for competition, a silent auction, garden related vendors and last but not least a plant sale organized by the Mill Bay Garden Club. It is a great place to spend an early summer's day. Master Gardeners from the Victoria Master Gardener Association will be on hand to answer your general gardening questions.

### 2023 Cowichan Family Life Association Garden Tour, June 4

Come join our Garden Tour Committee for fun and good times! Greeters, auction item coordinator, media relations, sponsorship, parking attendants, directional sign posters, poster distributors, Garden Tea coordinator, bakers and much more are all warmly welcomed. The CFLA provides free and affordable mental health services to Cowichan Valley residents and the Garden Tour is a major fundraiser. Come join the team and help your family, friends and neighbours get the services they need. Not to mention one heckuva wrap-up party.

### Mid Island Floral Art Club, June 9

Mid Island Floral Art Club meeting, June 9 at 2:00 at St Stephen's Church, 150 Village Way Qualicum Beach. Special demonstration: "Succulents in Floral Design" presented by Irene Brooks. Guests Welcome - Admission \$5.00.

## Committee Reports (cont.)

### Plant Sales

Hello everyone,

The warmer days are here at last and the garden is alive with the sounds of birds and buzzing bees.

As you work in the garden, please keep us in mind if you have plants or garden related items that need a new home. You can bring them to the Plant Sale Table at the May 23rd meeting. It's much appreciated.

And a great big thanks again to all those who brought plants to the last meeting.

Remember to please put your plants in pots and label with name and colour if known.

Also a reminder about the upcoming Mill Bay Garden Club Plant Sale at the Community Flower & Garden Show on June 3rd.

Please keep us in mind when you are potting up plants from your garden, or starting flowers and veggies. We would love it if you could grow a few extras or divide plants to contribute.

The Plant Yard is ready and you can start dropping off plants anytime after today. It is located at Barb & Bernie Juurlink's, 683 Butterfield Road in Mill Bay. Please put your plants in pots, with name and colour, if known.

I will be passing around the volunteer sign-up sheet again at the May meeting. I am looking for a few more people with vehicles to help with picking up and transporting the plants to the sale on Saturday. I also would like to borrow a few wheelbarrows and wagons to help with moving the plants. If you have bags, boxes and spare flats please bring them to the meeting. If you miss the meeting, please contact me by phone or email if you wish to help. And thank you to those who have already volunteered to help.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Thanks,

Kathleen Mercer

rs58km@telus.net / 604-848-9246



### 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.





# Gardening Tips for May-June 2023

by Barb Kohlman



- Finish planting out bedding plants. Water well and fertilize every two weeks----nice to make organic choice.
- Remove faded flowers from baskets to encourage more bloom.
- Stake tall plants before they fall over!! Whoops I missed this!!!
- Sow perennials and biennials (columbine, delphinium, oriental poppy, lupine, foxgloves and campanula) for next season.
- Check roses for blackspot. Pick off and destroy the diseased leaves.
- Remove moisture-robbing weeds from the garden, then mulch with compost (2") to suppress new weeds and help retain moisture.
- Mow grass to 2 ½ inches to allow the plants to carry on photosynthesis.
- Fertilize bulbs that have finished flowering, alliums especially.
- Remove yellowed foliage.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs when they are finished flowering and then fertilize.
- Clip hedges and keep newly planted hedges, trees and shrubs well-watered.
- Houseplants can go outside for the summer months---shaded and sheltered for best results, at least until they are acclimatized. You've still got time to plant any container-grown evergreen **climbing shrubs** once the risk of frost has passed.

*Cheers,*

*Barb K.*



## MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB GENERAL MEETING, APRIL 25, 2023

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

Gill announced some agenda changes. The questions for the Master Gardeners has been removed since we have an expert panel tonight. She added Kathy Code who will speak on the upcoming garden tour and Ann Leslie of the Mill Bay Nature School. Gill then called for acceptance of the revised agenda. It was so moved by Janice Rose and seconded by Al Mikalishen. Passed.

Acceptance of the minutes of the minutes of March 28, General Meeting was moved by Dustin Carlson; seconded by Katherine Miller. Passed.

Al Mikalishen spoke about the upcoming Flower and Garden show. He sent around clipboards for members to sign up to volunteer. We need people in many different areas. Sign up for something you will enjoy doing. He asked that new members print their names and email addresses so they can be contacted.

Mary Jean Morrison also asked people to look for things to donate to the Silent Auction. She has the forms for donations.

Brochures for the Flower and Garden Show were available to be handed out.

Kathleen Mercer asked that those who are donating plants for sale, bring them in the weeks leading up to the weekend before the Show so that they can be labelled and priced. This will relieve the rush at the end. Any kind of potted up plant is welcome, except invasive species..

Membership: Pat has two pins for new members. She also added three new members tonight

Treasurer: We have \$2100.00 in the bank; \$1000.00 for a bursary and a term deposit of \$1045.00.

Web site: the new web site is up and running. Gord will keep it up to date. Feedback is welcome.

Sunshine: Janice reminded us to let her know if anyone is ill. This month she sent a card to Celine Eggleston.

Library: Janice reminded us that there are many very informative books in the library to borrow. There will be some older books for sale by donation at the Flower and Garden Show. She also thanked Pat Clark for the gift copy of Michelle Obama's book American Grown: the Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Gardens Across America.

Memorial Garden: Katherine announced that there is a space in the garden for a rhododendron. She reminded us that she will need some help with weeding and tidying up the garden over the next few months. The club receives a \$500.00 discount in return for looking after the Memorial Garden.

Kitchen: Judy passed around a sign up sheet for goodies and kitchen help for May and September.

Speakers: Richard announced that the speaker next month will be from Pollinator.org



Brag Table: In the absence of Barb Kohlman whose husband is ill our Brag Table was run by Dustin Carlson and Fran Benton. Tonight there were two beautiful bouquets. There was a large variety of blooming plants. Daphne odora, bleeding heart, daffodils, hellebore, grape hyacinth, a potted anemone and a vase of pulmonaria. There were also two branches of the poisonous daphne which we were reminded to pull out of our gardens.

Kathy Code of the Cowichan Family Life Association spoke about the upcoming 27th annual garden tour on June 4 which supports that organization. There will be seven gardens on display. Tickets for the self directed tour are \$25.00 and are available online or at Dinters, Buckerfields, Russell Farms and at Elaine Scott's Plantaholics sale.

The meeting broke for a coffee at 7:40 PM and was reconvened at 8:00 PM.

Raffle winners were announced

The Panel of Experts were introduced by Rickard Nelson. They were Carrie Nelson, Dustin Carlson, Elaine Scott and Fran Benton. They answered questions on care of hellebores; propagation of plants like star magnolia; on invasive species like broom, daphne, blackberries and ivy. Bill Herring added some pointers on growing peas, tomatoes and celery. We were also told that a good place to find plants for sale is on Cowichan Garden Traders. Not much grows under cedars except sword ferns, cistus and Oregon grape.

Richard thanked the panel for their excellent information..

Janice Rose moved the meeting adjourn at 8:55 PM.

# Community Flower & Garden Show



## Grow & Go!

**Saturday, June 03, 2023**

Cobble Hill Hall, 3550 Watson Avenue

Adults \$2 / Children free

**Join Us from 9 AM to 2 PM**

### GROW!

#### Exhibit Your Prized Flowers or Veggies

Dozens of Classes to Enter  
Entries accepted June 2nd

Download Exhibitor's Guide online at:  
[www.millbaygardenclub.com/show](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com/show)

Or visit these local retailers for a copy:

**Duncan:** Dinter Nursery,  
Buckerfield's and Shar-Kare

**Cobble Hill:** Country Grocer

**Mill Bay:** Thrifty Foods

### GO!

#### Help Support Local Charities

Silent Auction

Dozens of delightful treasures to bid on

#### Shop, Dine and Learn at Our Garden Market

Plants and Garden Accessories,  
Strawberry Tea

Talk to Master Gardeners

#### Admire the Exhibits

Award-Winning Flowers  
and Produce

## Mill Bay Garden Club

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