



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Next Meeting (ZOOM):

Date: **Tues, October 24, 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!



October Speaker: Bernie Dinter On Xeriscaping

See page 3 for details

October Brag Table Theme:

*Gourd-geous Offerings**

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! (**we thought of it first!*)



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 - October 2023

Gill Keir

There was an excellent turnout for the September meeting, and we have 13 new members! The raffle table and plants sales were popular and the membership in good spirits.

The fall colours are out in full force right now and the rains have revived the landscape. I find it a gorgeous time of year.

It is time to plan our Christmas potluck dinner – date: December 5th. I ask you all to think about whether we should go

ahead. I will have a cutoff date for the hall rental from the Community Hall management by the general meeting on the 24th. I will add the discussion on this event to the agenda. For those of you who are new, the club members hold this potluck as a social event for December. There isn't a general meeting that month. The last Christmas potluck was in 2019 and covid has kept us at bay since. Looking forward to seeing you all next week.

Gill

October 24, 2023, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda (Tentative)

- 1) 7:00 p.m.: Club Business
 - a) Approval of the agenda
 - b) Approval of the minutes of September 2023 Club meeting
 - c) President's Report – Gill Keir
 - d) Executive Committee reports
 - e) Brag Table: Gourd-geous Offerings
 - f) Garden-related Questions with our Master Gardeners
 - g) Questions for the Executive?
 - h) Adjournment
- 2) 8:00 p.m. Speaker: **Bernie Dinter**.



October's Speaker (Tuesday, October 24):

Bernie Dinter on Xeriscaping

The speaker for our October 24th. meeting will be the well known Cowichan Valley nurseryman **Bernie Dinter**.

The topic for the night will be Xeriscaping - gardening with minimum water usage. Although the autumn rains have truly begun we can be sure that drought weather will return so now might be an opportune time to adapt our landscapes to thrive in the dry.

Flower and Garden Show Award

Barbara Juurlink won this summer's Community Flower and Garden Show Aggregate Award. Barb garnered the highest number of points for her entries, with Bill Herring a close second.



She was presented with her award at the September General Meeting, and Bill Wisnia captured the moment.

Membership

Welcome back to another garden club year! We've started the year with a bang. We had 13 new members sign up at the September meeting which takes our up to date paid membership to 98. That's fantastic! I am looking forward to more sign-ups and paid dues at the October meeting.



Don't forget that you can order a **permanent name tag** for a low cost of \$11.00.

Pat Spezowka
Membership

Executive Members

President

Gill Keir

Vice President

Richard Nelson

Treasurer

Gord Hamilton

Secretary

Carol Goodger-Hill

Past-President

Bernie Juurlink

Committee Leads

Membership

Pat Spezowka

Flower & Garden Show

Janice Rose

Library

Katherine Miller

Kitchen

Judy Raimondo

Plant Sales

Kathleen Mercer

Bursary

Ann Baty

Cont'd next page...

Committee Reports

Plant Sales

Every leaf speaks bliss to me / Fluttering from the autumn tree.

Emily Brontë

Greetings Everyone,

Hope you are enjoying the season's colourful change and the welcome return of rainy days. The garden certainly appreciates it.

Sorry to miss you last month. Thanks to Monika Morgan and Carrie Nelson for helping in my absence.

I'm busy in the garden cleaning up and noting my successes. It's a great time of year to dig up and divide your perennials. One suggestion I read is to put a bamboo cane next to the plant that needs dividing or moving to remind you when you are tidying up in the Fall. If you have extras that need a new home, pot them up and bring them to the next meeting. We would love to have them for the Plant Sale Table. Of course, we aren't limited to just plants. If you have extra veggies or fruits from your harvest, they are welcome as well.

We will be setting up our plant sale table inside the meeting hall and will start the sale at 6:30 pm. Please remember to put your plants in pots and label with name and colour if known.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming meeting.

Kathleen



(Continued from page 3)

Committee Leads *(cont'd)*

Sunshine

Janice Rose

Memorial Garden

Heather Jenkins

Raffle

Stephanie Taylor

Website Administrator

Gord Hamilton

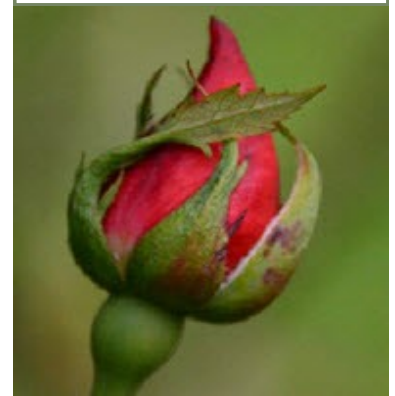
Facebook/Social Media

Pauline Dueck

www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub

Newsletter Editor

Dave Byrnes



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

10 Gardening Tips for October by Barb Kohlman

I picked these tips off the web:

#1 In vegetable garden beds, be sure to remove old plants, as well as any foliage that has fallen on the soil. Better yet leave the roots of many of your old vegetables to hold the soil and offer nutrients for next spring. Only really need to remove foliage if you think there may be a disease problem.

#2 Do a final weeding, and mulch the bed with straw, grass clippings, or chopped leaves. These mulch's can be turned into the soil next spring to help fertilize next year's crops.

#3 Collect and store flower bulbs—such as gladiolus, freesia, calla, and canna bulbs—after their tops have frozen. And dahlias.

#4 Mow the lawn one last time. Spread corn gluten meal if you have problems with crab grass. A corn milling byproduct, corn gluten meal inhibits the root growth of crabgrass (and all other) seedlings. Unable to develop roots, the crabgrass seedlings die. Corn gluten meal is approximately 10 percent nitrogen by weight, thus making it a natural “weed and feed” product.

#5 Collect leaves to shred (with a shredder or mower) and compost. Or lay on all exposed soil to protect from heavy winter rain compaction, erosion and winter weeds.

#6 Before you put away your mower, drain gasoline and take it to the shop for any repairs and to have the blade sharpened. Sharp blades give clean cuts and therefore less damage to your grass.

#7 Cut back tender roses to 10 to 12 inches and remove all foliage so insects and diseases can't winter over.

#8 Cover tender, hybrid roses with leaves or straw to protect against winter temperature changes. I'm not much of a rose grower. Do we need to do this in our island climate?

#9 Bring in any pots that can't take a freeze — terra-cotta, ceramic, and many plastic pots

10 Clean and oil garden tools before storing for winter

Bonus Tips:

- Dig up geraniums and bring them indoors for the winter.
- Plant spring bulbs up until ground freezes.
- If you are planning on making new garden beds, or expanding current ones, do it now so they are ready to plant in spring.
- Continue harvesting any fall veggies. You can cover hardier veggies like Brussels sprouts with row covers to extend their season.



Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting, September 26, 2023

Vice President Richard Nelson called the meeting to order at 7 PM. He reported that President Gillian Keir was ill and read a message welcoming everyone to the new season..

Janice Rose moved acceptance of the agenda; seconded by Dianne Munday. Passed

Dave Byrnes moved acceptance of the minutes of May 23, 2023; seconded by Fran Benton. Passed.

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer: Gord Hamilton said that the financial statements for the past year have been published in the Newsletter along with the budget for the coming year. The budget will include the purchase of new equipment for the Flower and Garden Show.

Secretary: Carol reported that in response to our donations to a number of local charities, we have received notes of thanks from The CMS Foodbank Society, Cowichan Hospice, Nourish Cowichan, The Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association, and Somenos Transition House.

Flower and Garden Show: Janice Rose presented the plaque for the show's aggregate winner to Barbara Juurlink. The plaque will hang in the Mill Bay Community Hall. The People's Choice award went to Susan Rogers who was not present.

Sunshine: Janice spoke about the passing of long time member and past president Pip Woodcock who will be missed. She also sent out several get well cards to members.

Membership: Pat Spezowka introduced 12 new members.

Raffle: Stephanie reminded us that tickets are 3 for one dollar. Tonight's prizes include a box of squashes, tulip and narcissus bulbs and a small shovel.

Bursary: Ann Baty told us about the three recent winners of the Garden Club bursaries. The 2023 winners, both from Cowichan High, were Brodie Kelly, who is attending UBC for a BSc. in biological research in plants and algae as a food source and Ginger Boehme-Vertefeuille who is studying environmental biology and climate change at UBC. The 2022 winner is Maya Tomin from Frances Kelsey who is now at UBC studying Forestry. There are currently four people on the Bursary Committee but Ann would welcome a few more members. The applications for the bursaries are received in April. There are usually 10 to 12 applicants. Each bursary is \$500.00. Last year because of Norman Redcliffe's donation of \$1000 we were able to award two bursaries and we hope to continue that.

Library: Katherine Miller explained how to borrow and return books and encouraged suggestions for purchases of books.

Memorial Garden: Heather Jenkins thanked those volunteers who recently helped with maintaining the garden. She noted that there has been a name change to the garden.

Kitchen: Judy Raimondo has all the help she needs for next month.

Plant Sales: There was a large selection of plants this evening. Indoor plants are \$3.00 each

Speakers: Richard thanked all the members who volunteered for the Cobble Hill Fair. If there is a speaker or subject you would like to have for our meetings please fill out a form, available at the front. Our speaker tonight is a new member.

Brag Table: September Survivors. What a wonderful display of blooms from a huge Strawberry Shortcake hydrangea to Himalayan honey suckle, Hosta, colourful leaves and ferns.

Norman Redcliffe spoke about dahlias. There are three drawbacks to dahlias. They do not like frost; they don't come in blue and they have no perfume. However they are very lovely. Kew Gardens gave up recording the new varieties after they reached 36,000. Norman recently won first prize from the Portland Dahlia Society for his dahlia named for his wife Gwen. It will now go into the U.S. Dahlia Cultivar Registry.

Questions for our Master Gardeners:

How to prune a fig tree? Go to the Internet. A good video on Fruit Trees and More will tell you how to prune.

Azalea fungus could perhaps be fixed by aerating the plant

Chard did not grow well this summer in the heat.

To amend soil use compost and manure. A cover crop that you dig in in the spring will also help. Horse manure is free at the stables in Cobble Hill.

The general meeting broke for refreshment at 7:45. The meeting resumed at 8 PM.

The raffle for the several prizes was held.

The speaker this evening is Malcom Ho You, an expert on peonies which he has been growing for 40 years, 20 in Alberta and 20 in Saltair. His slide presentation included information on how to plant, separate and graft peony roots. Peonies need 2 to 3 months of cold weather to bloom. There are 6000 plants in the genus. There are no blue peonies. They usually come in red, pink, purple yellow and white. The Chinese love tree peonies and red is a favourite colour. In Japan they cover peonies with umbrellas to allow them to last longer and to prevent the colour from bleaching.

Cut herbaceous peonies down in the fall.

Peonies that are 4 or 5 years old can be divided in the fall. First the ground must be thoroughly soaked and then using your hands you move the soil away and expose the roots. Get as much of the root as you can. Remove the mud. The large parts of the roots can be cut with a sharp knife, then put in a bucket to dry and form a callus over the cut. Always label the peony roots. Be careful of manure because it contains viruses and disease. Only use manure that you have had for 5 years. Fertilizer for peonies should contain potassium and phosphorus. Bone meal will make them bloom.