



# 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, November 28th, 2023**

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

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

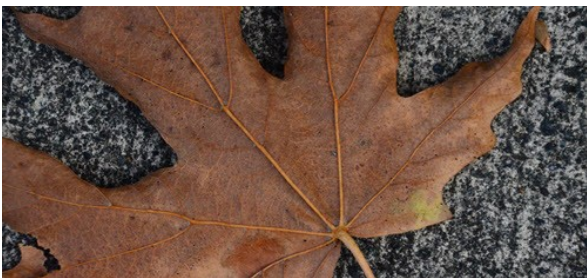
### Activities:

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

## November Speaker:

**Paul Spriggs on  
The Art of Rock and  
Crevice Gardening**

*See page 4 for details*



## November Brag Table Theme:

### *November Novelties*

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!



## A little ray of sunshine...

Club member and Flower and Garden show chair Janice Rose sends card on behalf of the Club to members experiencing illness or loss, 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



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# MBGC Christmas Potluck!

**Tuesday December 12th, 2023**

This year's Christmas Potluck Dinner will be held on December 12th at the Mill Bay Community League Hall. Our Master of Ceremonies this year will be Dustin Carlson. Doors open at 5:30 to allow time to set up your table and potluck item. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm. Bring your family, all are welcome!

#### Details:

- Turkey, Ham (with mustard mousse!), Punch, Coffee, Tea — all provided courtesy of MBGC.
- Members provide potluck dishes: appies, salads, veggies, desserts, etc. (Please bring a generous serving of your potluck dish AND A SERVING SPOON so that all can enjoy a taste!)
- **Bring your own plates, cups, cutlery, napkins — (No alcohol please)**
- **A cash donation box for the food bank will be on hand, should anyone wish to donate - no food items please!**

#### Fun Stuff:

- Table Centrepiece — theme is "*Winter Green, Winter Dream*". Create an arrangement for your table (*candles cannot be lit*). Win one of 3 prizes!
- Raffle Prize — receive a FREE raffle ticket upon arrival. Prize number to be drawn sometime during the evening.
- Gift Exchange — place an anonymous gift (\$15 limit on value) under the tree, get your number and be eligible to receive a gift.
- Word Jumble / Carol Singing — Dustin will present the ever popular word puzzle. Note also there is a piano in the hall, so if anyone feels the musical urge, please feel free!

# President's Report

Gill Keir

I will be far away when you are enjoying the Christmas Potluck. I hope your Christmases and New Years are joyful.

*Gill*

**Dustin Carlson is going to organize the first Potluck since 2019 and he will be the MC at the party. This is his update:**

It's that time of year again! A time to make merry as we come together and celebrate the year behind us and the friends before us. Please join us for this year's MBGC Christmas Potluck, Tuesday, December 12th, at the Mill Bay Community Hall.

Look forward to good food, hearty laughs, and warm company!

The gift exchange with a twist! "Re-Giftmas, Thrift-mas, Craft-mas meets Dirty Santa gift exchange".

The purchase price limit for gifts is \$15. Frankly, at this point in our lives, if something is less than fifteen bucks, chances are we already have it! Instead, find something from the ol' heap that someone else might enjoy and let's re-wrap and

re-gift it. Or gift something you've made and give it a new life somewhere else (and save on those pesky garbage bills!) Bonus points if it brings a laugh, chuckle, or at the very least, make one exhale slightly through their nose holes.

We've three confirmed Elves this year: one naughty, one nice, and one just happy to bring cheer!

Here're the rules:

Bring a wrapped gift to participate; your name will be placed into a hat.

When your name is drawn, an elf will bring you an unwrapped present OR you may "steal" an opened present.

If your present is taken, the naughty Elf will take your present, and the nice Elf will bring you a new unopened gift.

A present may only be stolen twice.

This fun game is a great way to have presents find their way to a wanted home.

More details to be announced at the next MBGC general meeting..

Dustin

## November 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 October 2023 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: **Paul Spriggs on Rock and Crevice Gardening**

## November's Speaker (Tuesday, November 28):

### Paul Spriggs on CRACKS and CREVICES: The Art of Rock and Crevice Gardening

In this talk, local rock garden builder Paul Spriggs will discuss all aspects of rock and crevice gardening including some history, design, construction and maintenance. Of course, there will also be lots of photos of beautiful Rock and Alpine plants.



## Executive Members

### President

Gill Keir  
250-709-1471  
[gillian.millbay@shaw.ca](mailto:gillian.millbay@shaw.ca)

### Vice President

Richard Nelson  
250-710-6591  
[nelsonrj@shaw.ca](mailto:nelsonrj@shaw.ca)

### Treasurer

Gord Hamilton  
250-743-2828  
[gordhamilton@shaw.ca](mailto:gordhamilton@shaw.ca)

### Secretary

Carol Goodger-Hill  
250-743-7434  
[cgoodgerca@yahoo.ca](mailto:cgoodgerca@yahoo.ca)

### Past-President

Bernie Juurlink

## Committee Reports

## Plant Sales

Greetings Everyone,

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

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 about 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 do have extras that need a new home, please 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

## Committee Leads

### Membership

Pat Spezowka  
250-715-6567  
[spez@shaw.c](mailto:spez@shaw.c)

### Flower & Garden Show

Janice Rose  
250-743-5897  
[aretiredrose@gmail.com](mailto:aretiredrose@gmail.com)

### Library

Katherine Miller  
250-929-6552  
[kathmilleris@gmail.com](mailto:kathmilleris@gmail.com)

### Kitchen

Judy Raimondo  
250-743-3913  
[Judyraimondo@gmail.com](mailto:Judyraimondo@gmail.com)

### Plant Sales

Kathleen Mercer  
604-848-9246  
[rs58km@telus.net](mailto:rs58km@telus.net)

### Bursary

Ann Baty  
250-413-7052  
[iannbaty@gmail.com](mailto:iannbaty@gmail.com)

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## Committee Reports (continued)

### Membership

We now have 115 paid members and I am hoping we'll have quite a few more before the year ends and in the new year. If you want to keep getting our newsletter you need to be a member in good standing.

Our membership dues are still only \$10/year. What a deal! I look forward to seeing you at the membership table next Tuesday if you haven't signed up yet. If that's not possible you can pay by sending me your information and then e-transfer to [mbgcmembership@gmail.com](mailto:mbgcmembership@gmail.com).

*Pat Spezowka*  
*Membership*



### Committee Leads *(cont'd)*

#### Sunshine

Janice Rose  
250-743-5897

[aretiredrose@gmail.com](mailto:aretiredrose@gmail.com)

#### Memorial Garden

Heather Jenkins  
250-733-2268

[fishface1@gmail.com](mailto:fishface1@gmail.com)

#### Raffle

Stephanie Taylor  
250-466-4746

[tayloromadeglass@shaw.ca](mailto:tayloromadeglass@shaw.ca)

#### Website Administrator

Gord Hamilton  
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[www.Millbaygardenclub.com](http://www.Millbaygardenclub.com)

#### Facebook/Social Media

Pauline Dueck  
250-589-8231

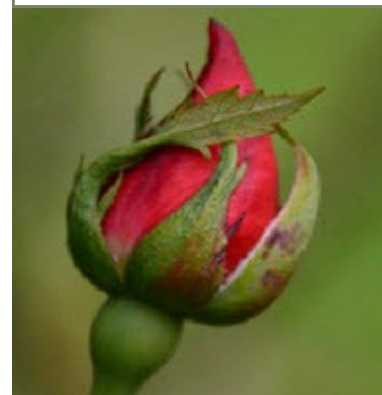
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millbaygardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub)

#### Newsletter Editor

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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*

## Upcoming Events

- **Mill Bay Garden Club Christmas Potluck** will take place on Tuesday, December 12th at the Mill Bay Community League Hall. See details on page 2.
- **Wreath Making Workshops** at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific: Saturday 25th and 26th November, continuing into December. Call HCP to register at 250.479.4642.
- **Unlimited Possibilities in the Garden Workshop:** Make an artist's book with a gardening theme. November 25th, 10am-3pm. Workshop presented by Trisha Klus. Register online or by phone: 250.479.4642.



## Gardening Tips for November by Barb Kohlman

Looking out into my garden:

I am still enjoying colour from leaves and twigs etc.

So don't forget to appreciate this time in the garden.

If you haven't gotten all the debris off your lawns it is best to do so. The grass will still photosynthesize a certain amount over the winter.

Rake those leaves straight onto your flower beds if you don't have time (or energy/initiative) to rake and store in a compost area.

Make sure pots that are left in your garden are not filling with rain and drowning your plants.

If you are storing plants in your green-house make sure you check them for water needs periodically. They can dry out over the winter.

Good to go to the couch now and check all those gardening magazines for next years' garden "improvements"

*Cheers — barb k*





## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

7:00 pm, October 24, 2023

President Gillian Keir called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Janice Rose moved approval of the agenda; seconded by Norman Redcliffe

Nick Jenkins moved approval of the minutes of the general meeting of September 26, 2023: seconded by Norman Redcliffe.

### President's Report

Gillian asked if the membership wanted a Christmas Party. It was decided by a show of hands that a potluck party will be held on December 12. Gil will not be here at that time so we need an organizer. We already have someone to cook the ham but we will need someone to cook the turkey. The Club will provide, punch, coffee and tea. Members should bring generous pot luck dishes to go with the main course. Bring your own cutlery, napkins, cups and non-alcoholic drink as well as a serving utensil to go with your dish. We need to decide if we will have an anonymous gift exchange or a carol sing. The Community Hall puts up the tree. We will set up and take down our own tables and chairs. Doors will open at 5:30 for setup, with dinner at 6:00 PM. There will be more information in the Newsletter.

### Executive Committee Reports.

Membership: We have one new member tonight . Our total membership is now 107.

Raffle Table. Stephanie reported several contributions to the raffle table tonight.

Plant Sales: Kathleen has several good selections of donated plants.

Kitchen: Judy needs help in the kitchen for November. The list is circulating. She will not be here in January so Gayle Volker volunteered to take over for that month.

Sunshine: Janice has sent out several cards this month. If you know of anyone who is ill or in need of a card please contact Janice who can send either a Jacquie Lawson card or a snail mail one.

Library: We have several good books on xeriscaping or gardening in a dry climate.

Brag Table: Gourd-geous Offering. Fran Benton and Dustin Carlson are presiding tonight. Barb is home with her husband who has just been released from hospital. Tonight's table featured a vase of nerine which is a South African lily. Breeders have crossed this with amaryllis to produce other colours. Deer do not like nerine. They grow well on Guernsey due to a shipwreck when the bulbs were washed ashore and took hold. Butterflies are not attracted to the pink flowers of nerine so the

plant itself developed a red flower which does attract butterflies. Justin talked about the gourds. There was a Turkish turban squash and a chayote which is a native of Mexico. A bunch of large carrots inspired a conversation about carrot flies which can destroy a crop. However the flies can only fly 2 1/2 feet above the ground so carrots can be grown in raised beds. There was also a lovely bouquet of flowers in a pumpkin and a camellia which blooms throughout the winter.

Garden Related questions:

Remember that purple loosestrife is very invasive.

Tomatoes were very slow to ripen everywhere this summer.

How does one get rid of codling moths in apple trees. A dormant spray over the winter will help. You can also wrap the limbs in cardboard in spring. The moths will lay their eggs on the cardboard which you should then destroy. You must pick up and destroy all infected apples. You could also put little organza bags over each apple to protect them.

We adjourned for refreshments at 7:25 and reconvened at 7:55 PM.

The raffle tonight included a Buddha donated by Dustin, daffodil bulbs, books from Dinters and a turban squash.

The speaker tonight is Bernie Dinter on Xeriscaping - how to garden in a dry climate. We have a Mediterranean climate- wet winters and dry summers, however our climate is becoming increasingly dry. Our western red cedars are dying. We need to concentrate on drought tolerant plants and move away from traditional water consuming plants like lawns. We could allow the lawn to dry in the summer if we can not bear to get rid of it , plant a meadow or replace the lawn with a shade garden which will retain moisture. Trees create shade and keep things cool. Golden locust (Gleditsia) is a good drought tolerant tree which creates a light shade. Rhododendrons do well in our climate. Native plants are adapting to the drought. These include Oregon grape, Kinnikinic, sword fern. ocean spray. snowberry. etc. Common camas, various types of thyme, and roses also do well in drought. Ornamental grasses also do well. Concentrate all your water consuming plants together in one area to make them easier to care for.

Fall is the best time to put in new plants because they have the winter and spring to become established. When planting make your hole wider rather than deeper and put a berm around the edge to retain water. Water early in the morning before the sun comes up. Avoid watering in the afternoon because the heat will evaporate the moisture. Do not get the foliage wet in the evening. That could cause mold. Water deep rather than often. Grey water from the sink or laundry can be useful bit it may contain fats and oils which are harmful.

To maintain a healthy soil use natural mulch, collect leaves and put them on your flower beds. Put your vegetable materials in a covered bin and allow it to become mulch. Fine bark mulch is also good. Vinegar based weed killers are recommended.

Gwen Redcliffe moved adjournment at 8:55 PM