



# 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, January 23rd, 2024**

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

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

### Activities:

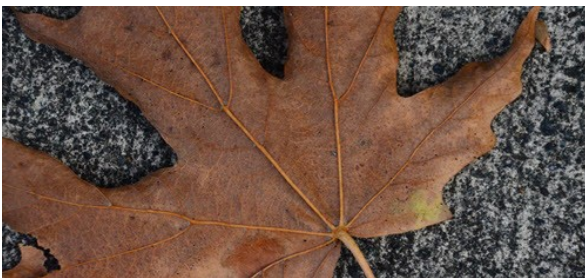
**Business Meeting; Members' Forum;  
Gardening Q&A; Library; Raffle;  
Plant Sales; Guest Speaker;  
Socializing!**

## January Speaker:

**Colin Tamboline on**

**Lilies: Summer Splendour**

*See page 3 for details*



## January Brag Table Theme:

### *January Survivors*

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.



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## President's Report

Gill Keir

Happy New Year!

I would like to thank Dustin Carlson for undertaking the duties of Master of Ceremonies for the 2023 Christmas Potluck. From all reports, his well-organized plans were executed with 'panache and humor'. There was a fresh and updated approach to our long-standing event – the ghosts of Christmases Past mingling with and handing off to the present.

There will a sale of micro-drip irrigation supplies at the February meeting.

Seedy Saturday is March 16th.

The Flower and Garden Show committee has begun planning the 2024 show and you will be hearing from them soon.

And last, there will be positions vacant on the Executive of this club for the 2024/2025 year.

Regards,

Gill Keir



### January 2024, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda (Tentative)

- 1) 7:00 p.m.: Club Business
  - a) Approval of the agenda
  - b) Approval of the minutes of November 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: **Colin Tamboline on Lilies**

## January's Speaker (Tuesday, 23 January):

### Colin Tamboline on "Lilies: Summer Splendour"

The presenter for the 23rd is Colin Tamboline, speaking about lilies. Colin's presentation outline and bio are below and attached are a couple of images.

"Lilies - Summer Splendor" will be a general overview of the genus *Lilium*. The classification and types of lilies will be surveyed, and then tips on buying bulbs, planting, general culture, and finally propagating these garden treasures.

*I have gardened all my adult life. I got my PhD in Developmental Biology from UVic in 1990, and my MD from UBC in 1991.*

*I have been a family physician in Sidney, BC from 1992 to 2022, and am now fully retired from practice. My wife and I have three kids and four grandkids.*

*I have been obsessed with *Lilium* since about 1998, and since semi-retiring in 2017 I've been spending more time on hybridizing lilies. I also love native Island plants, Rhododendrons, Iris, peonies and orchids, and more recently bog plants and alpiners.*

*I have been a member of the Victoria Lily Society since 2002, and President since 2019.*

*I live and garden on a rocky one acre lot in North Saanich, B.C. with lots of 120 foot second growth Douglas Fir, Arbutus, Garry Oak, and *Erythronium oregonum* surrounding my lily and perennial beds.*

See you soon!

Cheers, Colin



## 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...*

## Upcoming Seedy Weekends...

- **20th Annual Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday:** February 3rd, 10:00 am-3:30pm, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.
- **Victoria Seedy Sunday:** February 25th, 10am-2pm, Quadra Village Community Centre
- **Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday:** March 16th, 10am-2pm. Cobble Hill Community Hall & Stu Armour Hall, Mill Bay Garden Club will have a booth.

## A Good Time Was Had By All - A Christmas Party

### A Merry Recap of Our Christmas Extravaganza!!

As we bid adieu to the festive season, let's take a stroll down the memory lane of our enchanting Christmas party. With twinkling lights, laughter, and the warmth of friendship, our garden club gathered for a night of merriment that will surely linger in our hearts.

Dustin, The MC for the MBGC Christmas Party, infused the evening with humor and panache, ensuring everyone felt right at home. Wrangling members and elves alike, he orchestrated the festivities seamlessly, setting the stage for a truly magical night.

The turnout was spectacular, with forty-six members, family, and guests creating a lively atmosphere. Generosity and creativity were in full bloom as members presented an array of door prizes and exchange gifts. The room buzzed with excitement as each present found its new home, adding a touch of holiday cheer to all.

Our taste buds were treated to a feast for the senses, with a delectable spread that struck the perfect balance between savory and sweet. From mouthwatering appetizers to decadent desserts, the highlights were too numerous to list - a testament to the culinary talents within our green-thumbed community.

Adding a melodious touch to the evening, live vocal and piano Christmas music filled the air. The harmonious tunes provided by Sitka Music school created a festive ambiance for pack down.

As we reflect on the Christmas party's success, we extend our gratitude to each and every member who contributed to the festive tapestry of the evening. Your generosity, creativity, and warm spirit truly made this a magical event to remember.

Wishing you all a garden-full of joy in the coming year!

*PS: Our very generous and thoughtful garden club members donated \$298.80 to the CMS Food Bank this year!*

## Committee Leads *(cont'd)*

### Sunshine

Janice Rose

### Memorial Garden

Heather Jenkins

### Raffle

Stephanie Taylor

### Website Administrator

Gord Hamilton

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

### Facebook/Social Media

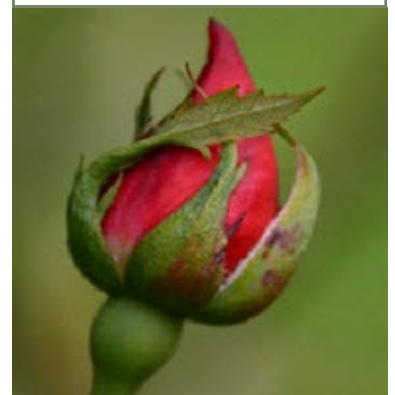
Pauline Dueck

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

### Newsletter Editor

Dave Byrnes

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



## 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

## Outstanding Service Award to Barb Kohlman

During the November general meeting of The Mill Bay Garden Club, Barb Kohlman was recognized for her outstanding service to the Club.

The Outstanding Service Award was organized by Janice Rose but unfortunately she could not attend the meeting due to not feeling well.

Below is a list of the many activities that Barb has undertaken for the Club.

- Secretary 2003 –2005
- Vice-President 2005-2007
- President 2007-2009
- Past-President 2009 –2013.

*Note that this role is normally held for two years but Barb agreed to continue for two extra years.*

- Annual plant sale at the Community Flower Show. Together with Elaine Scott she organized, set-up and sold plants at the sale from 2006-2017.
- Barb and her husband Bill hosted the AGM at their home in 2004 and 2009.
- Barb has been a regular contributor to the newsletter since 2005 (see page 8!).
- Barb has always answered the call to weed the Memorial Garden beside the hall. In addition, she designed the new replacement garden which was planted last year.

These are just a few of the activities that Barb has undertaken for the club. She has always answered the call to volunteer for additional activities as they arose.

After the presentation the members present at the meeting were able to partake of the wonderful cupcakes that had been prepared by Pat Spezowka to mark the occasion. *Elaine Scott.*



Photos: Barb Juurlink

## Committee Reports

### 2024 Diamond Anniversary Flower and Garden Show

This year, on June 7/8 we celebrate our 75th anniversary of the Mill Bay Garden Club's Flower and Garden Show at the Farmer's Institute in Cobble Hill. SAVE THE DATE.

This show is a wonderful opportunity for all members of our club to participate in our most important and biggest event of the year. The organizing committee has already begun preparing for the show. We will be calling on volunteers to help out in a variety of ways and with a variety of tasks. There is always great camaraderie that develops as we work together as a team!

There are numerous highlights of the show which will appear in the newsletter during the following few months. This month the focus will be on the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction creates such excitement and enthusiasm at our show. Many club members donate plants, baking, services, art work and other intriguing items. Our business community and outdoor vendors always step up to the plate with exquisite merchandise as well.

This year we are in need of a new Silent Auction Coordinator to lead a small group of people who have offered to help. This is urgent as our Silent Auction not only adds an interesting dimension to the show but helps fund it. Please see Janice Rose if you are interested in helping out with the Silent Auction.

*Janice Rose*  
*Flower and Garden Show*

### Membership

Happy New Year Everyone.

We now have 121 paid members in our club. Quite a few of our members learned about us at one or more of the 3 membership drives we have each year. These are Seedy Saturday in March, our Community Flower and Garden Show in early June and the Cobble Hill Fair in August.

I am now getting ready for Seedy Saturday on March 16th this year. We will have a club information table and due to the great response at our table last year we are going to be taking memberships this year. I will be looking for 4 volunteers to take one of 2 shifts at our table. I need 2 volunteers from 9:40am to 12:30 and 2 from 12:30 to 2:20pm. I am hoping that we can have one experienced gardener at each shift who can answer gardening questions, if possible.

Our membership dues are still only \$10/year. You can pay by sending me your information and then etransfer to [mbgcmembership@gmail.com](mailto:mbgcmembership@gmail.com) or signing up at our general meetings. We accept cash or check.

*Pat*

## Committee Reports (continued)

### Plant Sales

*If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind? PB Shelley "Ode to the West Wind"*

Greetings & Happy New Year,

Well, looks like Winter has finally arrived and brought freezing temperatures and snow from the north. Hope you are keeping warm!

I've been reading about Winter Sowing. This is a seed-starting method that is done outdoors in fall or early winter and takes advantage of the cold weather to stratify the seeds. I've tried it out with some self-sowing types of perennials. Here is a link if you want to give it a go: <https://savvygardening.com/winter-sowing/>

I guess it will be awhile before we see mild temperatures and can get out in the garden. But if you do have anything you want to contribute, it would be greatly received. I will have the Plant Sale tables ready at 6:30. As always, please remember to put your plants in pots and label with name and colour, if known.

Hope to see you at the upcoming meeting. In the meantime, stay warm and dream about Spring flowers.

*Kathleen*

## Gardening Tips for January-February by Barb Kohlman



Perhaps to encourage all of you gardeners to attend a **gardening** event: later in March is Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday!

Perhaps January is a time for planning the perfect garden!!!

It's the time of year when — if the rain clouds disperse and the sun shines — it can almost feel like spring outside. And that means gardening lovers may start to dream about getting their hands in the soil.

Take a look at what you grew last year, figure out what worked well, what didn't work well, and dream up what you'd like to plant this year.

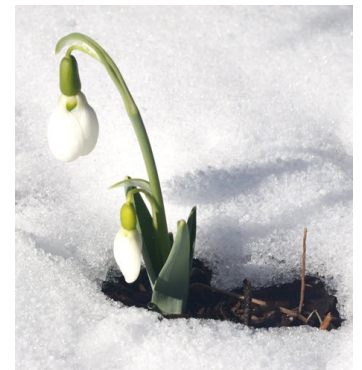
Keep in mind, the trouble with planting seeds indoors at this time of year, when people get excited, is that your little seedlings will get too tall, too laggy and they won't be strong enough when you plant them out, so look at the seed envelopes and note the suggested time that is listed there.

Composters should get the air flowing into your compost piles, so that it's decomposing properly by the spring when you will add it to the garden. To do this, use a stick or pole to poke holes in the compost pile, and if covered, make sure it is still damp.

While trees are dormant, it's a great time of year to prune your fruit trees so that they provide the healthiest and best fruit for you come flowering and fruit time.

Take stock ::: what garden tools and supplies do you have and what is on your wish/must have list for the new year? January is a great time to look for those garden bargains.

Hopefully your aconites and snowdrops are blooming ... and that they survive the cold we are having now. I even have hardy primulas blooming---joyful !!!!



*Cheers — barb k*





## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

7:00 pm, November 28, 2023

The November General Meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Gillian Keir in the Mill Bay Community Hall.

Sally Emory moved approval of the agenda; seconded by Dave Byrnes. Passed.

Fran Benton moved approval of the minutes of the general meeting of October 24, 2023: seconded by Cecile Healey. Passed.

Executive Committee Reports.

Membership: Pat Spezowka introduced two new members and reported that we now have 118 paid up members.

Treasurer: Gord Hamilton said that everything is looking good.

Web Page: Gord is getting contacts through the web page which he passes on to the executive.

Kitchen: Judy Raimondo passed around a sign up sheet for the next general meetings.

Library. Katherine Miller reminded us how to check out and return club books. In the past donations were put into a book sale but now at each meeting some books will be offered for sale. Books for sale have prices on them. All other books can be checked out. Please forward any suggestions for new books to Katherine.

Brag Table: Barb Kohlman and Fran Benton showed us the lovely display of garden herbs and vegetables that have been brought tonight. There was also a display of *Camellia sasanqua* which is now in bloom, *Choisya ternata* (Mexican orange blossom) and Heavenly bamboo.

Questions:

Q: When is a good time to prune Japanese holly (*ilex crenata*)? Spring is the healthy time to prune. Prune in summer if you do not want it to get big.

A: There is a new form of Roundup for sale which is actually a strong vinegar. It will burn off the foliage of weeds but will not kill the root.

Christmas Party. Dustin Carlson is in charge of the Christmas Party this year. He is passing around a sign up sheet for help to make this happen. There will be a Christmas gift exchange which you can enter if you bring a wrapped gift. There will also be carols and piano music. We need help with the setting up and taking down of chairs and tables. There will be a bin by the door for food donations.

*Minutes continued on next page*

Presentation: Elaine Scott presented Barbara Kohlman with a framed photograph in recognition of her many years of outstanding service to the club. Her contributions are as follows:

2003 -2004 - Secretary for 2 years

2005-2007 - Vice President

2008-2009 - President

2009-2013 - Past President

Barb also worked on the annual Plant Sale from 2006 to 2017. She and her husband Bill hosted the Annual General Meeting in 2004 and again in 2009. She has been a regular contributor to the Newsletter since 2005 and has run the Brag Table for 12 years. In addition Barb always volunteered to work on the garden outside the Community Hall both in design and in physical work. Pat Spezowka made an array of decorated cupcakes for the occasion.

The meeting adjourned for refreshment at 7:32 and reconvened at 7:55PM.

The raffle included an amaryllis, jars of preserves and an assortment of hyacinth bulbs with planter.

Our speaker tonight is Paul Spriggs on Cracks and Crevices: The Art of Rock and Crevice Gardening. Paul is the co-author of *The Crevice Garden*. Filbert Press, 2022. He is the former president of the Vancouver Island Rock Garden Society. He is also a landscaper. His Facebook page is Modern Crevice Gardens and his Instagram account is @PaulSpriggsrockgardener.

The inspiration for his view of rock gardening came from the mountains. His gardens are modeled from outcroppings in the mountains and he hopes to create a sense of drama and boldness in his designs. Paul has spent many hours climbing and examining the small, beautiful plants in the gravel. He was mentored by the Czech crevice gardener Zdenek Zuolaneck. The Czechs have turned crevice gardening into an art form. Foremost among them is Josef Halda. However the movement was actually started in 1919 by Reginald Farrer with his book *The English Rock Garden*.

The plants Paul uses for crevice gardens come from harsh environments. They are usually small and can tolerate severe conditions. Many of the plants he uses are only available from garden clubs or from seed catalogs. Among the plants he uses are the saxifrages, *Verbascum Letitia* (mullein), sedum, phlox, *dianthus simulans*, *acantholimon* and *daphne*. The soil must be well drained and at least 50% sand with mineral components and little nutrients.

He gave away three rock garden plants to members.

Sally Emory moved adjournment at 9:14 PM