



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, March 26th, 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!**



March Speaker:

Dorothy Kennedy on

Lessons from Ethnobotany

See page 3 for details

March Brag Table Theme:

Out Like a Lamb...?

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 son 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

Spring!

The grass is growing quickly, the ornamental cherry is in full bloom and the yellow plums and daffodils are just starting. Seems too cool for my mason bees though.

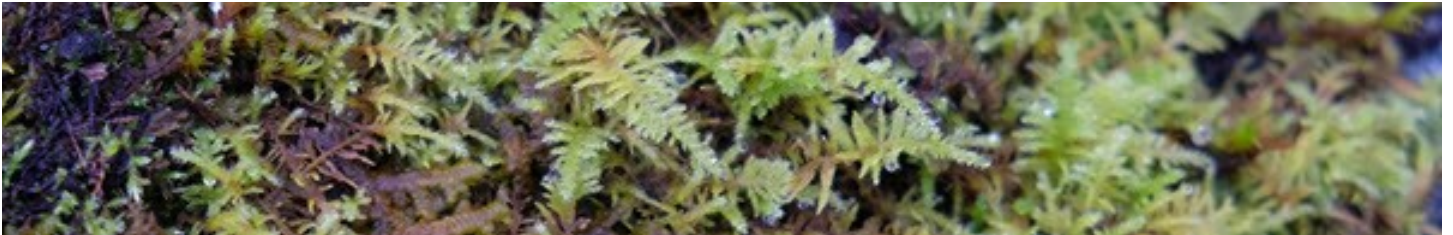
Please read all the Committee Leads' reports in the newsletter. If you have any questions, we have set aside time early in the agenda and the Committee Leads will be happy to address any concerns – or accept praise!

Our Past President, Bernie Juurlink, is accepting nominations for various positions for the 24/25 executive. Please consider volunteering.

The Annual General Meeting at the end of June is held in a member's garden. Please consider volunteering to lend your space. We have worker bees who do all the set up and take down.

Looking forward to seeing you next week.

Gill Keir



March 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 February 2024 Club general meeting
 - c) President's Report – Gill Keir
 - d) Executive Committee reports
 - e) Questions for the Executive
 - f) Brag Table
 - g) Garden-related Questions with our Master GardenersBreak
- 2) 8:00 p.m. Speaker: **Dorothy Kennedy on Lessons from Ethnobotany**
 - h) Adjournment

March's Speaker (Tuesday, 6 March):

Dorothy Kennedy on Lessons from Ethnobotany

Dr. Dorothy Kennedy is a socio-cultural anthropologist who specializes in the Indigenous cultures of British Columbia and Washington State. After winning the Lieutenant Governor's medal for the best Master's thesis at the University of Victoria, Dorothy completed a doctoral degree in anthropology at the University of Oxford, England. She is currently a consultant providing expert opinions on issues of Aboriginal Rights and Title to First Nations, the Attorney Generals of BC and Canada, and corporations. In her spare time, she is the Vice-President of the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society and, with her husband, Randy Bouchard, maintains a show garden in Mill Bay, specializing in rhododendrons.

In her talk "Lessons from Ethnobotany," Dr. Kennedy discusses the research she and Randy Bouchard undertook with ethnobotanist Dr. Nancy Turner among the Okanagan-Colville people of central BC and Washington State in the 1970s. The talk focuses on these people's identification, classification, and perception of their environment, illustrated by examining a few key plants. Dorothy will also discuss Indigenous management practices the Okanagan-Colville used to maintain plentiful harvests.



MEMORIAL GARDEN SPRING CLEAN UP

Saturday April 13th 10.00 am to 12.00

Looking for volunteers to help clean up
Mill Bay Community Hall Garden.

Please bring your own tools and weed containers.



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

Bursary Report

Special thanks to Norman Redcliffe and to Dinter's Nursery for teaming up to raise money for the Bursary Fund. Norman's contribution of 100 potted tall bearded Iris plants to Dinter's yielded \$880.

Along with additional money from plant sales and a Maple Bay Yacht Club donation, a total of \$1000 will go toward two future \$500 bursaries for Cowichan Valley applicants pursuing plant related post secondary studies.

On behalf of the bursary committee, thank you Norman, for your creative effort and commitment to supporting our youth.

Ann Baty

Raffle Table

Barb Jensen will be handling the March raffle. If you have any contributions please call or text her. One of our prizes is a happy-hoppy garden ornament.

Enjoy the meeting,

Stephanie

Membership - News on the Dues

If you haven't paid your dues yet you will not be receiving the monthly newsletter any more. We decided at our last executive meeting that it's unfair for unpaid members to keep receiving the newsletter. Therefore from now on those who hadn't paid by year end, December 2023, will be taken off the mailing list.

Our membership dues are still only \$10/year. You can pay by sending me your information and then e-transfer your fee to mbgcmembership@gmail.com or signing up at our general meetings. We accept cash or check.

Pat

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

Committee Reports etc (continued)

Plant Sales

Daffodils, That come before the swallow dares, and take The winds of March with beauty.
— William Shakespeare

Hi Everyone,

Isn't it glorious out these days! My garden is beginning to show lots of colour. The perennial beds are emerging and I have taken on the task of beating back my lovely Beebalm. It really spread out last summer. Our beautiful little Magnolia stellata is finally giving us a splendid cloud of white flowers and brave daffodils sway in the breeze. I just love this time of year.

So, please keep us in mind, when you are out working in your garden. If you are thinking of dividing plants or making room for that special plant you just have to buy, pot up your plants and bring them to the March meeting. Please remember to put your plants in pots and label with name and colour (if known).

The table will be set up at 6:30 and ready for your contributions.

Kathleen

Seedy Saturday at Cobble Hill

I am very happy to report that our table at Seedy Saturday was a great success. Thanks to Carrie and Alex, our volunteers, we were able to get a lot of information about the Garden Club and this year's 75th Anniversary Flower and Garden Show to the attending public. They were kept very busy and after only 1.5 hours were almost out of the 50 garden club information sheets they started with. I had to print more and scurry to the hall with a new supply. They also handed out at least 100 bookmarks and Flower and Garden Show pamphlets. Thank you so much to Carrie and Alex and also Elaine Scott who was volunteering at the Master Gardener's table and sending people our way.

We also had a Free Draw box again which encourages people to come to our table. We gave away a white Azalea shrub to the very happy winner, Teri Handy.

Pat Spezowka



Committee Reports etc (continued)

Library Notes

Thank you to all the club members who remember to return their books each month. It's appreciated by others waiting to borrow them.

Don't forget to make time before the meeting and during the break to check out our great selection of books on a variety of garden topics.

I'm always open to suggestions for new titles or topics for the library.

Yours in reading,

Katherine

Diamond Jubilee Flower & Garden Show

So... what's happening outside?

Each year the we invite small local companies to showcase and sell their garden related wares. Vendors range from our own garden club's plant table to individuals and companies selling hanging pots, native and cultivated perennial plants, shrubs and small trees to garden ornaments from a blacksmith - who also supplies plants for 'green roofs' - to lotions and potions made from garden-reared plants, to composted bark mulch and wood chips direct from a sawmill and clay sculptures and.....

Every year South Cowichan Healthcare Auxiliary serve lunchtime fare of delicious bunwiches and their famous strawberry teas, coffee and soft drinks.

Individual vendors will be advertised on the garden club web page as we get closer to show time.

Spring 2024 Plant Sales by Elaine Scott

Now that February is coming to an end, you have ordered, organized and even started some of your vegetable seeds, the ornamental garden is coming to life and things are getting exciting garden-wise, below is a list of spring plant sales that you just cannot miss.

Mill Bay Plantaholics Sale

The Mill Bay Plantaholics are back again with a wonderful array of plants for sale. Work is being undertaken as we speak to make the ordering even easier than last year. The plant list will go live on April 20 while the pick-up date is May 4. If you are not already a customer contact Elaine Scott to be put on the customer list. The profit will again be donated to the Cowichan Women Against Violence Society.

Vancouver Island Rock & Alpine Garden Society Sale. April 21, 9-4

This annual Spring plant sale will take place at the Mary Winspear Community Centre in Sidney. If you want the opportunity to buy rare and unusual plants grown and lovingly cared for by club members or offered by specialty nurseries, this is a sale that you cannot afford to miss. There will also be seed sales, an art display, tea, a silent auction and door prizes.

Cowichan Valley Garden Club Sale. April 27, 2024. 10-3

This sale will take place in the St. John's Anglican Church in Duncan. Indoor and outdoor annuals and perennial for both shade and sun gardens will be for sale. The garden club looks forward to sharing their bounty with their neighbours. Watch for sandwich boards and posters directing you to the sale.

Cairnsmore Place and Hospice Volunteer Gardeners Plant Sale. May 11. 9-2

The in-person sale will be held at Cairnsmore Place, 250 Cairnsmore St, Duncan in the garden at the very end of Cairnsmore St. There will be a wide range of plants for sale again this year with a special addition of many beautiful daylilies. Wooden bird houses and bird feeders will also be for sale. All money raised helps to keep the gardens at Cairnsmore Place and Hospice House looking gorgeous. Your continued support for this important community activity is most appreciated.

Victoria Plantaholics Sale. May 25, 10-2

This sale will again take place on the old Bentwood Nursery site near Butchart Gardens. This annual event started in 2000 and rapidly grew from a few local propagators selling excess seedlings and cuttings into a large number of plantaholics selling all sorts of interesting and unusual plants. It has always been the sale to find that one unusual plant that you have been lusting over or that plant you did not know existed but cannot live without. For further information contact Bryan Emery

Garden Tours Coming Up!

Now that you have written all of the plant sales that were in the newsletter last month into your calendar and you have some plants in mind that you want to buy, here is a list of garden tours that will give you ideas on how to enhance your garden design.

Victoria Conservatory of Music Garden Tour May 11 and May 12 10am-4pm.

This beloved self-guided garden tour celebrates mothers, music and Victoria's rich garden culture. Now in its 42nd year, this year's tour features ten springtime garden gems from all over Greater Victoria – each one unique and sure to inspire. Tickets are \$45 and include two days of exclusive access to ten private gardens, musical performances by talented students and faculty, and Master Gardeners at select locations. All proceeds raised keep music education, performance and wellness accessible to the community. Tickets can be bought on-line at vcm.bc.ca

Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society Garden tour. May 18. 10am – 4 pm

This tour includes five private Rhododendron gardens owned by members of the Cowichan Valley Rhododendron Society. Knowledgeable Rhododendron growers will be on hand to answer any questions and provide information on the gardens. Rhododendrons will be available for purchase at two of the gardens. The tickets for this fund-raiser will be available at Dinter's and other locations (t.b.a.)

Cowichan Family Life Garden Tour.

Rumer tells me that this garden tour will take place on June 2. I have checked the organization's web site and sent an email to the organization but have not had any success obtaining information for you. I understand that there will be seven gardens on the tour but do not know how you can obtain tickets. If anyone knows anything about this tour maybe they could provide the information at the next meeting.

Elaine Scott

*MBGC's table at Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday,
March 16th. Photo: Pat Spezowka*



Micro-Irrigation Equipment For Sale at March General Meeting

Norman Redcliffe has downsized his gardens and donated these irrigation supplies to the Mill Bay Garden Club to sell to members. The sale takes place at the March 2024 General Meeting and will start at 6 p.m. We will accept cash, cheques, credit cards and debit cards. The general meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

Miscellaneous Supplies

Hose to Wand Connectors with Valves

Wand Spray Heads X 21" Female Threaded

1/2" In Line Valves – Barbed Male Ends

3/4" In Line Valves – Barbed Male Ends

1/2" Female Caps to 1/8" Jet

1/8" – 1/8" Hose Valves 8 L per hour

1/8" Threaded to Spray Valves with On-Off

Packets Tubing Loop Stakes (10 in a packet)

Plastic Containers of Pole Support Joints (peas, beans sweet peas)

Barbed Drip Heads Some 4 L per hour – others anon

1/2" Riser Caps to Threaded Tops

1/8" Cap Spray Heads

1/8" Spray/Flood Outlet Caps

1/8" Pressure Reducer Barbed 1 gal per Outlet Caps

Micro drip Piercing/Adjustment Tools

1/8" 1 gal per hour Barbed to Slip Caps

Hose Wands and Sundry Hose Connectors

Sundry Loose Connectors (metal hose wand, 1" spray heads)

Each of 1/2" Caps, Threaded and Slip

3-1/2" Male Pipe End Threaded

Micro-Drip Irrigation Kit

Sundry 1/8" Tubing Solid & Perforated

10 x 1/8" Drip Turn-Off Valves

2 x 1-1/4" Threaded Solenoid Valves

1 x 1" In Line Filter

7 x 1/2" Riser to 1/8" Variable Spray Heads

15 x 0.5 gal Valve Emitters

20 x 2 L per hour Drip Emitters (1/8" barbed)

1 x 1/2" – 3/4" Turn Off Bib Brass

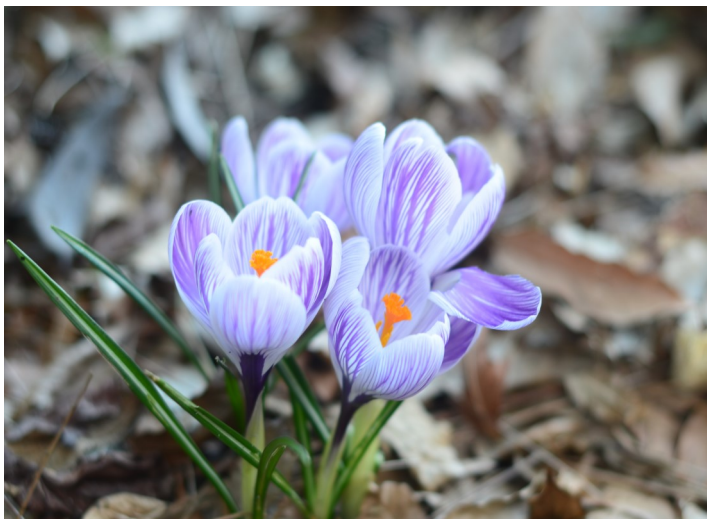
1 x 1" – 3/4" Turn Off Bib Brass

11 x 1/8" Pipe Gauge to 180 degree Variable Spray Head Spikes

2 x 5/8" Hose Repair Joints

3 x 1/2" to 180 degree spray heads for riser

50 +/- Plastic Plant Stem Clips



Diamond Jubilee Flower & Garden Show

Letter to Donors

Once again it is Spring! Time for The Community Flower and Garden Show. This year we are celebrating our Diamond Jubilee – 75 years of sharing our interest in gardens with our friends, neighbours and clients. It is also a way for our Garden Club to do a little fund raising on behalf of some essential local charities. Would you be kind enough to help us this year?

The Silent Auction is a central attraction of the day and we are asking you to donate something for inclusion in this special event. Donations can include goods, gift certificates or services

In return we will recognize your support in the following ways

- Promoting your name to more than 350 attendees during the Silent Auction
- Credit in the Mill Bay Garden Club Newsletter which is sent to 127+ members
- Acknowledgement on the Mill Bay Garden Club's web site, Facebook page and in our Garden Show News releases.

You will also share in the grateful thanks of those organizations and individuals who benefit from the Silent Auction's success. We are aware of the current challenges that face all of us. The charities we support have also faced challenges. However, we are slowly recovering. Our Flower and Garden show enjoyed a big success last year which allowed us to make donations to several local charities and post-secondary bursaries.

Please get in touch if you can help and thank you so much for considering our appeal

Carol Goodger-
2024 Silent Auction Committee

Gardening Tips for March by Barb Kohlman

Came across this tip — but have not personally done it!!

Pick any weeds out there (in spring), fill a large garbage can with about 1/3 weeds and 2/3 water. Cover and let sit for about a week. You now have green manure to use when watering your plants. Best to dilute it, probably — 10 to 1 should be good.



This is a direct nitrogen source so should only be used when the plants can use it as in now when they are starting their spring push — and don't overdo the watering as too much nitrogen (not used) will move through the soil and could flow into and damage riparian areas.

P.S. it will smell -- anaerobic decomposition.

Send Them Off!

- Put petroleum jelly around the base and tops of your plant containers.
- Watch Mr. Slug (Mrs. too) having to muster all his energies to get past this gummy barrier — stick or slip for the slug.

Lightweight row covers offer a tidy and effective organic means to prevent insect damage to crops. See our local nursery for choices for products.

Plant Those Cool-Season Veggies Now

UBC garden instructor Egan Davies says any vegetable where you're eating the leaves, such as spinach, arugula or kale, are considered cool-season plants. They can be planted outdoors now. "Then anything you eat the fruit from, like tomato or any of the squashes, those plants are warm-season," he said in an interview with North By Northwest's Sheryl MacKay.

"Even if you're starting them inside, those plants need heat and it won't warm up in most parts of the province until April or May, so you might start them off in April, and plant them out in May."

Don't Over-Water if You're Starting with Containers

With plants growing in containers, you should make sure they dry-down in between waterings, or things like soil fungus can grow.

"The best way to know when to water is to lift the container and feel how heavy it is," he said. "So water it, and then lift it to see what that feels like, and everyday, just pick it up and lift it and you can see how heavy it is and you'll notice it starts to get really light. Most plants really can wait until the pot is really, really light."

Low Acid Heirloom Tomatoes: Grightmire's Pride by Fran Benton

Hey folks, do you find tomatoes give you or someone in your family an upset tummy? I have the solution to that problem. Grightmire's Pride are the lowest acid tomato available for our gardens. Years ago I bought some seed for this tomato from William Dam seeds in Ontario. Well what a spectacular tomato it is! They are large red heart shaped fruits that grow well in my garden. I have grown them in the greenhouse too with equal success. As they are heirloom tomatoes, the seeds are viable. The tomato is indeterminate and will grow energetically. I will have seeds available at the March meeting so you can try them too. They are great for eating and make really good tomato sauce! Yum yum yum!

Here is how William Dam describes this tomato:

A large, early, pinkish-red, heart-shaped variety originally from Yugoslavia. Meaty, low seed, low-acid fruit with good taste. Indeterminate, prolific grower. If tomatoes do not agree with you-this one will!
65 days





GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

7:00 pm, February 27, 2024

The February 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.

Norman Redcliffe moved approval of the agenda; seconded by Fran Benton. Passed.

Janice Rose moved acceptance of the Minutes of the General Meeting of January 23, 2024; seconded by Al Mikalishen. Passed.

Al spoke to the Flower and Garden show to be held in June. He needs about 90 volunteers. On the Friday before the show set up of tables in the Cobble Hill Hall will begin around 1 PM. We also need people on Friday at 7 PM who will help exhibitors; assist the judges and some people who will look after snacks. On Saturday there is a need for people at the hall gate, at the outdoor gate, golfers who float around to help. The Silent Auction and the Plant Sale will also need people. If you are new to the club please include your email with your name on the sign up sheet. If anyone has changed their email please let us know.

Norman Redcliffe is selling bearded iris to raise funds for the club. Dinters will also be selling his bearded iris at the same prices to raise money for us. They are \$8 for a 1 gal. container and \$12 for a 2 gal container.

Randy Thompson who is also a member of the Cowichan Valley Garden Club invited anyone in the club who wishes to exhibit at their annual Leaf and Flower Art Exhibit on May 25 at St. Peter's Church to contact Connie Smith at 250-818-2156 or Anne Bonney at 250-733-2515.

Bursary Committee. Janice Rose spoke for Ann Baty who could not be present. The club offers bursaries of \$500 each year to two students who are planning to go into further education that has anything to do with gardening or agriculture. The bursaries are usually given to High School students. We get so many applicants each year that it is difficult to choose only two. The committee currently consists of 4 people. Ann would like two more people on her committee to read all of the applications and then help decide where to award the money. Norman volunteered. If anyone else is interested please contact Ann, Al Mikalishen, Heather Jenkins or Janice Rose.

Past President Bernie Juurlink said that at the June AGM we elect the new executive. Technically all positions are open. Traditionally the President serves for 2 years and is succeeded by the Vice President. Currently we need nominees for Vice President (whose job it is to choose speakers), for the positions of Facebook, Web Master and also for an assistant on the Raffle Table. If you are interested contact Bernie, Elaine Scott or Kathy Code.

Minutes continued on next page

Sunshine: Janice announced the sad news of the passing of Mary Jean Morrison, past chair of the Silent Auction. She has sent a card to Mary Jean's husband. If you know of anyone in the club who is ill please let Janice know so that she can send a card.

Flower and Garden Show: Janice announced that we have 3 months to get it together. Each month at the General Meeting a different person will speak about their role in the show.

Kathleen Mercer spoke about Plant Sales. She hopes to have a wide variety of plants this year. Although there are donations from other plant sales, most of our plants come from club members.. She hopes members will pot up some plants or bulbs from their yard for the sale. They will be kept this year at Gill's yard until the day of the sale. All types of plants are welcome except invasive species. If you are in doubt please check the B.C. Invasive Plant species web site. Put the plants in clean, undamaged pots and label them. If you have questions contact Kathleen Mercer. She also announced that Norman brought packets of gladiolus bulbs for sale on the plant table tonight.

Raffle Table: Tonight we have several maple themed items. Please purchase your raffle tickets.

Membership: Pat introduced two new members. Please remember Seedy Saturday in March.

Dustin asked if we could have a greeter on the door at meetings. It is a good idea.

Library: Katherine Miller reminded us to sign out any book you wish to borrow and to cross off your name when you bring it back. She recommended "Nature's Best Hope by Douglas W. Tallamy. Portland: Timber Press, 2019 which tells us that conservation starts in our own back yard with native plants. . If you have suggestions for new books please let Katherine know.

Kitchen: Judy Raimondo passed around the sign up list for goodies.

Vice President: Richard announced that Imax in Victoria is showing "Fungi the Web of Life" .

Gill announced that at the March meeting there will be a sale of micro-irrigation equipment. A list of all the items will be in the March Newsletter. We hope to have the sale outdoor before the meeting. You will be able to pay by cash or credit card.

Brag Table. Feisty February brought only one item to the brag table. It was a small vase of flowering plants brought in by Heather Jenkins. The vase included forsythia, snowdrops, crocus, wood anemone, pulmonaria, cyclamen, hazel and Daphne odora.

Elaine Scott will put a list of garden tours and plant sales in the Newsletter. She mentioned the Sylvan Church Plant Sale and the annual Plantaholics Sale which raises money for the Women's Centre. Anyone interested in helping with the latter please contact Elaine.

The meeting broke for refreshment at 8:55 PM and resumed at 9:05 PM.

The Raffle tonight included maple almonds in a candy dish, stained glass art of a maple leaf , a wreath and a one gallon container of a Japanese maple.

Richard introduced Carrie Nelson who spoke on Japanese Maples: Identification, Selection, Planting and Care. Carrie was raised by a botanist. She retired in 2005, built a greenhouse and decided to start a nursery. She loves ornamental gardens and decided to specialize in rhododendrons and Japanese maples. There are only 10 native species of maple in Canada and only three in B.C. She spoke about the taxonomy, the considerations you should have when choosing to plant maples, on companion plants, pruning, propagation, diseases and pests. The informative slide show illustrated the many colours of Japanese maples, their leaf shapes and bark.

Katherine Miller moved adjournment at 9:00 PM.