



# MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

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## Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, May 28th, 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!**



## May Speaker:

**Justin Dunning**

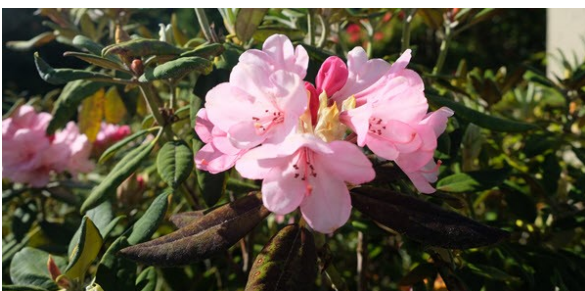
**Trillium Hibbersonii**  
**Vancouver Island's Hidden Gem**

*See page 3 for details*

## May Brag Table Theme:

***a-MAY-zing!***

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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## A Message from the Past President

Bernie Juurlink

We have a well-functioning Club but our Club cannot function unless people volunteer for positions on the Executive.

We have two positions that absolutely need filling: Vice President and Chair of the Membership Committee. We also

have two other positions that would be nice to fill: Web Master and Manager of Facebook. If these latter positions are not filled Gord Hamilton and Pauline Dueck have agreed to continue in these roles but it would be nice to give these people a break.



### May 28, 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 April 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: **Justin Dunning: Trillium Hibbersonii**
  - h) Adjournment

## May Speaker (Tuesday, 28 May)

### Justin Dunning: Trillium Hibbersonii, Vancouver Island's Hidden Gem

Justin Dunning grew up in Haliburton, Ontario surrounded by Trilliums every spring. Trillium grandiflorum is so prevalent that the county uses it as its emblem and it carpets the deciduous forest floors so thickly that hills can appear white at a distance. Justin's main focus is on carnivorous plants and orchids but has always had a soft spot for the genus Trillium. After



learning about the existence of a dwarf Trillium endemic to "inaccessible cliffs" on the west coast it became an obsession to see these plants and document them. Over the past three years, Justin has visited every documented site of Trillium Hibbersonii and is excited to share the history of Vancouver Island's most charismatic endemic plant. Justin has lived on Vancouver Island for 12 years with his wife Tiffany. They spend their weekends hiking and exploring with their rescue pup, Nootka.

## 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...*

## Diamond Jubilee Flower & Garden Show

### Exhibiting at the Flower & Garden Show?

Liz Lindquist and Fran Benton will give a short talk at the May MBGC General Meeting, on what judges are looking for in plant exhibits and how to prepare your plants for the show.

We hope to encourage members to share their flowers and vegetables, with everyone who loves the beauty of gardens. Liz will also be there on the Friday before the show opens to help people set up their exhibits.



## Committee Reports

### Membership

Hello Gardeners,

I now have volunteers for our next membership drive which is our Flower and Garden Show. After that is the Cobble Hill Fair on August 24, 2024 . We are registered with the fair assn. and I will be asking for volunteers for the booth before we adjourn for the summer. I need 4 people to manage the booth, 2 shifts of 2, and a couple to help set up the booth the day before. If you're available please let me know.

It's with a some sadness to tell you all that I am giving up looking after the Membership Committee this year. Alex and I are hoping to be doing as much travelling as we can in the future so I can't promise to always be there when needed.

I have looked after membership for 3 years now and I have enjoyed the position very much. It was a great way to put names to faces and to meet so many new and present members. We have a wonderful and friendly assortment of members.

Bernie will be looking for someone to replace me and I hope someone will put their name forward. It's a fun position and I have it organized and kept a record of everything I have done and of what needs to be done. You will be able to waltz right into it. I will be around throughout most of the summer to assist you.

Thanks,

*Pat*

### Flower & Garden Show Silent Auction

The Silent Auction supports a number of Garden Club programs throughout the year. It relies on club members for its success. Please be generous in donating gently used items, crafts and services to help the club raise much needed funds.

### 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



### 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*

## Committee Reports etc

### From the Library

Hello garden club members...

Because the AGM in June takes place at a member's home, our regular meeting in May is your last chance to return library books to the Hall. Please be diligent and find and return whatever you have at home. Of course, you will also have the opportunity to sign out new books at the May meeting, and you can keep them until September.

I am also planning to buy several new books for our collection so if you have any suggestions for topics or themes, please let me know ASAP.

Yours in reading,

*Katherine*

### Plant Sales

Well May is speeding along and though it has been chilly, the gardens are beginning to blossom. 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 28th 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 Flower & Garden Show on June 8th. The Plant Yard is ready and you can start dropping off plants anytime. It is located at Gillian Keir's upper property at 2591 Keir Road in Mill Bay. I have left extra labels and markers on the drop off table, if needed. Please make sure your plants are in clean, undamaged pots, labeled with name and colour, if known. **And let us know when you are dropping off your plants.**

I will be sending out a note closer to the day to remind everyone who signed up of your time and duties. Also if you have a spare wheelbarrow or wagon which we can use it would help with moving the plants on Saturday morning. 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*

# *Diamond Jubilee Flower & Garden Show*

Join Club members, friends & neighbours Saturday June 08 at our annual Flower & Garden Show - Cobble Hill Hall from 9 AM to 2 PM

The date is fast approaching – here are some ways you can be part of the fun.

## **Grow!**

- ⊙ Check out your garden for volunteer seedlings and plants needing dividing. Donate them to our plant sale. Contact Kathleen Mercer for when and where. Plants are assembled in advance for pricing and “priming”.
- ⊙ Donate products or services to the Silent Auction, which is our core fundraising vehicle for the charities we support.

## **Show!**

- ⊙ Enter your favourite cut flowers, vegetables or flower arrangements in one of over 50 classes, including classes celebrating our Diamond Jubilee.
- ⊙ Entries are submitted and judged the day before the show. Bring your entries to the Cobble Hill Hall on June 07 between 1 and 6:50 PM.

## **Go!**

- ⊙ Purchase a plant at the Mill Bay Garden Club plant sale table – expect a range of familiar and unusual plants!
- ⊙ Bid on an exquisite Silent Auction item and support our charities.
- ⊙ Celebrate gardening by viewing the wonderful array of entries at the show indoors.
- ⊙ Vote for the People’s Choice Award.
- ⊙ Enjoy the Strawberry Tea hosted by the inimitable ladies of the South Cowichan Hospital Auxiliary.
- ⊙ Stroll through the Garden Market featuring 16 local vendors.
- ⊙ Buy a gardening book from the Club and contribute to our lending library.

Charities supported in 2023 included:

- ⊙ Nourish Cowichan
- ⊙ CMS Food Bank
- ⊙ Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association (CERCA)
- ⊙ Shawnigan Basin Society
- ⊙ Cowichan Hospice
- ⊙ Somenos Transition House

## Gardening Tips for May by Barb Kohlman

- June in the Northwest is ideal (necessary ??!) for continued garden weeding. Since many seedlings may still be small, this is imperative to prevent overcrowding or competition.
- Those who have planted cool season annual crops may also find this to be the ideal time to begin or continue harvesting. Both lettuce and snap peas flourish in early-season cool temperatures.
- As the weather begins to warm, many areas of the Northwest will see that gardening in June is the time to transplant tender vegetables into the garden or begin direct sowing.
- Regional gardening often includes the preparation and maintenance of drip irrigation lines. Irrigation will be key to plant health during the driest portions of the growing season. Since we will frequently receive hot temperatures and dry weather in June, as well as the rest of summer, growers will need to make certain that their drip irrigation is started and continued for the growing season.
- June garden chores in the West also mark an ideal time to begin fertilizing perennial flowers and shrubs, as well as fruit trees.
- Gardeners can also continue to direct sow/transplant frost tender plants such as tomatoes, peppers, beans, and corn.
- Throughout June, gardeners will need to continue routine maintenance of xeriscape lawns and hardscapes to ensure that spaces are waterwise.



Cheers — *barb k*



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

7:00 pm, April 23, 2024

President Gill Keir called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the Mill Bay Community Hall.

Norman Redcliffe moved adoption of the agenda; seconded by Jim Wisnia.

Richard Nelson moved approval of the Minutes of the General Meeting of March 26, 2024; seconded by Gwen Redcliffe.

Kim Bernard of the Rotary Club of Shawnigan Lake Eco Club presented an award to two of our outstanding gardeners, Pat Clark and Dinah Clark as a token of the club's appreciation. They have contributed to keeping Shawnigan beautiful by planting gardens. Kim also thanked Thrifty's who have given them all of the bulbs that do not sell to use in the gardens.

President Gill Keir asked that members come forward to fill the vacancies in the Executive. We need candidates for Vice President, for Web Master and for Facebook.

Membership: Pat introduced a new member and thanked all those who have paid their membership dues on time. We now have close to 150 members.

Treasurer: Gord Hamilton indicated that all is well.

Raffle Table: Stephanie is looking for donations for the May meeting.

Plant Sales: Kathleen said that beginning May 1 she will be accepting plants for the June Garden Club sale. There will be a sign at Gill's where you can drop off plants. Kathleen is also willing to provide help with transplanting plants for the sale.

Kitchen: Judy passed around a sign up sheet for treats for the next meeting in May. The May meeting will have a sign up sheet for the September and October meetings.

The AGM will be in June. Gill reminded us that we need someone to volunteer to host the AGM.

Flower and Garden Show. Nick pointed out the leaflets on everyone's seat. Along with a donation form and a donation letter, there is a poster for the show. Please correct the date on the poster and circulate them. The date for plant entry should be June 7.

Monika Morgan announced the Sylvan United Church Plant and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 11.

Library: Katherine Miller reminded us to draw a line through our names when we return books to the library. There is a also a stack of free gardening magazines, please take one and do NOT bring it back.

*Minutes continued on next page*



Brag Table: Tonight there were several interesting and beautiful plants which included a New Zealand Muehlenbeckia astonii purchased at the Rock and Alpine Club sale. Barb Kohlman also pointed out erythronium grandiflora (Glacier Lily), a bonsai azalea, Anemone coronaria (Blue poppy) and several colourful tulips.

Fran Benton brought a hellebore root that she had split She also brought several packets of giant marigold seeds to give away.

The meeting broke for refreshment at 7:45 and reconvened at 8:00 PM.

The raffle table items this evening included a ceramic pot, a flowering plant and bottles of fertilizer.

Richard Nelson introduced our speaker, a horticultural therapist, Sheila Bailes who practices the use of horticulture to help people get well. She is originally from Manitoba. Connecting with nature particularly in a forest can improve our physical and emotional health. We seek in many ways to incorporate nature into urban networks with nature based mindfulness, ecopsychology and ecotherapy. Horticultural therapy can benefit all kinds of illnesses and can contribute to the recovery process of persons in prisons, care facilities, schools and for treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Horticultural therapists are trained professionals who usually have a bachelor's degree and have interned under a registered horticultural therapist.

Gwen Redcliffe moved adjournment at 8:45 PM.

