



# 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, October 22, 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!**



### October Brag Table Theme:

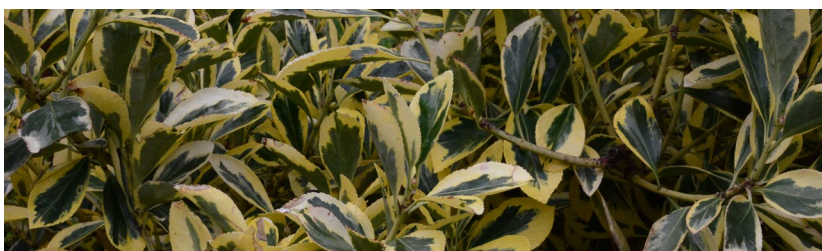
#### *Spooktacular Plants*

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. If you've never participated, give it a fling, be it flower, vegetable or fungus!

### October Speaker

**Bernie Juurlink on the  
CERCA Bat Program**

*See page 3 for details*



### A little ray of sunshine...

Club member and Flower and Garden Show Coordinator Janice Rose has stepped into the shoes filled for so many years by Mary Gale. Janice will continue sending cards to members experiencing illness or loss on behalf of the Mill Bay Garden 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 Message - October 2024

Richard Nelson

President's Message to the October 22  
General Meeting of the Mill Bay Garden  
Club

I love the benefits of gardening: physical activity (read a sore back for 6 months of the year), the bounty of the veggie garden to enjoy through the winter, the extended bloom period we are blessed with on the coast, and of course the spiritual connection with the land and surrounding nature.

Mill Bay Garden Club is a big part of the joy of gardening given the large group of knowledgeable and enthusiastic members. Many of the presenters over the past few years have informed our knowledge on how to work with the local flora and fauna to enhance diversity in step with indigenous species. This club has about 150 members who have a tremendous influence on the local environment, embracing a growing ecological consciousness.

In illustration of an activity within the MBGC Bernie Juurlink is actively studying bat populations in our area. Over the summer he facilitated using recording devices to record bat calls at a few MBGC members' gardens. The results included hundreds of bat calls from which Bernie was able to positively identify seven+ different bat species active in and around our gardens which is surprising, exciting and reassuring for the local environment. Bernie's work with bats reveals one facet of how our stewardship of the land can support a species we seldom see but one that plays a significant role in the environment. I will be thinking of and thanking those bats and their role as the mosquitoes hum in my ear at dusk as I hobble in from the garden.

In gardening,  
Richard



## October's Speaker (Tuesday, October 22):

### Bernie Juurlink on Bats in the Cowichan Valley

#### Bio:

I am a retired academic who spent many years teaching medical and dental students, science undergraduate students as well as graduate students. My research areas were related to neurological disorders, cardiovascular problems as well as some cancer issues. During the last couple of decades of my research program there was a big focus on how certain dietary phytochemicals can positively influence one's health.

Since retirement I have joined a number of environmental groups and am especially active in the Shawnigan Basin Society and the Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association (CERCA). Bill Heath, Co-Chair of CERCA started a bat acoustic monitoring program to see what bats are flying around in the Cowichan Valley. This has caused me to become very interested in bats and have read many books and research papers on the topic. I have also purchased my own acoustic meter to record bats in our yard, in the yards of several Garden Club members and at Copely Pond.

#### Abstract:

The talk will be a brief overview of the CERCA bat program, an overview of bats in general and then a focus on the bats in the valley, their lifestyle and their habitats. The talk will end on white nose syndrome and the unanticipated consequences with drastic loss of bats in Eastern North America pointing out one aspect of the importance of maintaining biodiversity.

**U PICK DAHLIAS** - every Sunday 9 - 2 pm til frost. We have over 250 dahlias on display, and you can pick your own for \$1.25/stem.

Cash only for purchases.

The site is not wheelchair accessible, and we would prefer you to leave your dog at home.

Robin Round, Owner

## Executive Members

### President

Richard Nelson

### Vice President

Kathy Code

### Treasurer

Gord Hamilton

### Secretary

Carol Goodger-Hill

### Past-President

Gill Keir

## Committee Leads

### Membership

Robin Reid

### Flower & Garden Show

Janice Rose

### Library

Katherine Miller

### Kitchen

Judy Raimondo

### Plant Sales

Carrie Nelson

### Bursary

Ann Baty

*Cont'd next page...*

## Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting Agenda October 22, 2024

- I. Call to Order: 7:00pm.
  - a) Approval of the Agenda:
  - b) Approval of the minutes of Sept 24 General Meeting
  - c) President's Message: Richard Nelson
  - d) Executive & Committee reports:
  - e) Questions for the Executive:
  - f) Brag Table:
  - g) Garden related questions with our Master Gardeners:
- Break ...
2. Presentation 8:00pm. **Bernie Juurlink on Bats**
  - h) Adjournment.

## Committee Reports

### Notes from the Library

Thank you to all who returned their library books after the summer hiatus. Please remember to bring your books back to our monthly meetings and cross off your name in the book. Then browse our selection and find something new!

Yours in reading,

*Katherine Miller*  
*Club Librarian*

### From the Kitchen

Just the usual reminder for folks to bring their own cup for coffee time, and a big thanks to all the volunteers who signed up to bring treats and help in the kitchen.

*Judy*



(Continued from page 3)

### Committee Leads (cont'd)

#### Sunshine

Janice Rose

#### Brag Table

Barb Kohlman

#### Memorial Garden

Heather Jenkins

#### Raffle

Stephanie Taylor

#### Website Administrator

Gord Hamilton

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

#### Facebook/Social Media

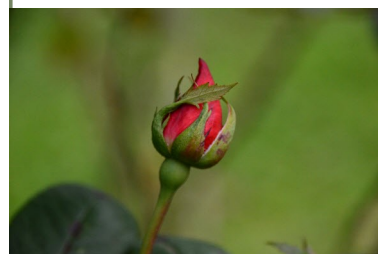
Yvonne Amos

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

Yvonne Amos

Facebook Coordinator



## Committee Reports (continued)

### Membership

Thank you for those who have already paid for their membership to the 2024-2025 year. For those that have not, a friendly nudge that membership dues are due with a reminder that at the AGM in June, it was voted to accept the membership fees as \$20.00 per year.

Not sure what your membership fees go toward? They are used for things like renting the hall, helping our speakers with their cost, going towards scholarships to name a few.

Looking forward to meeting you at the membership table!

*Robin*

### Memorial Garden Clean Up

**Many thanks to Nick , Gill, Janice and Katherine who generously gave their time to help clean up the Memorial Garden at the end of September.**

Keeping this garden clean and tidy helps reduce the garden club's rental by \$500 a year.

Following the fall clean up I would like to get together a group of volunteers on a monthly basis to maintain the garden. This would take place on the last Saturday of each month, weather permitting at 10.00 a.m.

**Come and join us on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>**

Please bring your own tools and buckets.

*Heather Jenkins*

### Plant Sales

Fall is a great time to divide perennials to relocate, pot up, or share with club members. Please use clean pots & ID your contributions. Alternatively, bring in bare rooted plants, cleaned, labeled & in plastic bags. (Photo examples are Bletilla Striata & peonies).

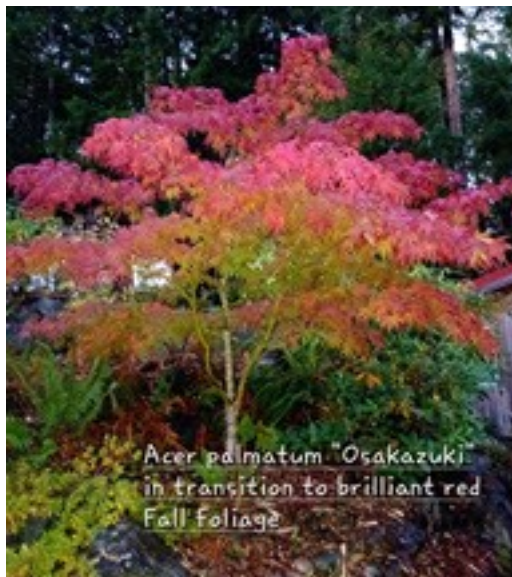


Bletilla Striata will be available at the meeting for 3 for \$5.

*Carrie*

## Thanksgiving Monday Open Garden at the Nelsons

A small but rain-immune group of folks came to the Nelson homestead on Monday the 14th, to see the changing leaf colours of maples, specimen trees, & various shrubs, and the last of the cukes & peppers, fuchsias, begonias, and dahlias.



Thanks to Natasha, a new MBGC member, attendees enjoyed cookies while getting to know each other. Thank you all who came out!

*Carrie & Richard*

## Events

**Mixing It Up 2025** registration is now open!

To take advantage of early bird registration, contact [mixingitup.org](https://mixingitup.org) for speaker and session details, and the Karelo link. (Link not available at press time - contact the site for details. Larger poster at end of newsletter!)

**Mid Island Floral Art Club** November 14 at 2:00.  
Christmas themed design using TEXTURE Demo & Create at meeting.

Joanne Hamilton, Mid Island Floral Art Club

## Mixing it up BEYOND BEAUTY | 2025

### Registration is NOW Open

Saturday February 1, 2025 | 9 to 4:30 | Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney BC

*Five incredible speakers will share how adding biodiversity creates healthy and beautiful gardens!*

The Homegrown National Park | Dr. Doug Tallamy (message pre-recorded)  
Mix it Up: Designing with Native & Non-Native Plants | Heidi Hitchcock  
Mind What You Sow | Maria Valana  
Citizen Science in the Garden | Dr. Brian Starzowski  
Trees in the Urban Environment | Dr. Tom Smiley

### Conference Fees:

Early Bird fee until November 30, 2024	\$75
<i>Early bird bonus—an opportunity to submit a question to Dr. Tallamy</i>	
Regular fee from December 1, 2024	\$85
Recordings Only fee (for 30 days after the conference)	\$40

### Amenities:

Bring your own lunch & mug. Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided.  
Vendors and a Silent Auction will add excitement to the day.

Visit [mixingitup.org](https://mixingitup.org) for Speaker & Session details, and the KARELO link



## Gardening Tips for October-November by Barb Kohlman

Most herbs are hardy but two are often lost to a sudden winter freeze: Rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*), and Spanish lavender (*Lavendula stoechas*). Protect them with a tomato cage wrapped with bubble wrap or burlap around the lower half. If snow is forecast, top the cage with a garbage can lid or board then remove the lid when the cold snap has passed.



Create new compost piles from the material you are removing from your garden – the smaller the pieces the faster they will break down. Perhaps run your lawn mower over leaves for this result.

Extra, greatly growing Hostas? Good time to dig them up and separate/replant in other places (afternoon shade is important) or bring some to the garden club for sale on the plant table.

Move containerized plants to a sheltered place to protect them from freezing temperatures and/or excessive rain.

Spread dolomite lime around the root zones of lime-loving lilacs, mock orange and Deutzia and perhaps even your empty veggie beds.

Mulch once the ground has cooled off. I like to use 2" or so of compost.

Drain your irrigation system, and check frost valves on outdoor spigots

Trim or stake bushy herbaceous perennials to prevent wind and wet snow damage

Plant more bulbs !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Cheers — barb k

## **Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting, September 24, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Nelson at 7:02 PM.

Janice Rose moved approval of the agenda; seconded by Kathy Muirhead. Passed.

Al Mikalishen moved approval of the minutes of May 23, 2024; seconded by Gillian Keir. Passed.

President Richard Nelson introduced the new executive as he called for committee reports.

Vice President Kathy Code has arranged speakers for every meeting up to March of 2026. She would welcome any ideas for more speakers.

Treasurer Gord Hamilton is on vacation in the Canary Island but has provided us with both Budget and Income statements in the current Newsletter.

Past President Gill Keir and Secretary Carol Goodger-Hill were both present.

Membership Chair Robin Reid introduced five new members. Richard announced that the executive at a meeting two weeks ago decided to offer free membership to those 25 years and under in an effort to attract younger members.

Janice Rose, Chair of the Flower and Garden Show, presented the award for the exhibitor who gained the most points at the Show. The award went to Bill Herring for the 4th time in the 18 years since the award was created. It was accepted by his daughter Heather Jenkins who was the runner up for most points.

Janice also announced that she had booked the hall for the 2025 show on May 30/31. She has also booked for 2026.

Librarian Katherine Miller explained the self checkout system and said she welcomed any suggestions for the purchase of new books. Donations are accepted especially if they are fairly new and have readable print. Any donated books that do not meet the collection development criteria will go into the book sale at the Flower and Garden Show.

Kitchen: Judy Raimondo circulated lists for volunteers to sign up to bring goodies or to help in the kitchen at future meetings..

Plant Sales: Carrie Nelson is taking the lead and Katherine Mercer will be the assistant this year. Carrie announced that Pat Spezowka brought a number of pots this evening, free for the taking.

Ann Baty who is in charge of bursaries said that one of last year's winners has joined our club.

Sunshine Chair Janice Rose sent 4 cards over the summer to members who were ill.

Brag Table. This is chaired by Master Gardeners Barb Kohlman and Fran Benton with assistance from Dustin Carlson.



Memorial Garden. Heather Jenkins said that there will be a work party this Saturday at 10 AM. Volunteers should bring their own tools.

Raffle Table. Stephanie Taylor is selling tickets for tonight's prizes during the break. She thanked everyone who donated.

Facebook. Yvonne Amos will be posting notices of the meetings in the future.

Newsletter. David Byrnes was not present this evening.

Brag Table. The entries tonight all had the names of the exhibitors. There was an attractive basket of mushrooms containing a beautiful chanterelle and a large lobster mushroom. A good mushroom book for those wishing to identify them is in our library. Mushrooms of the Pacific North West; a Timber Press field guide by Steve Trudell and Joe Ammirate. Timber Press, 2009.

The table also had a basket of green grapes, dahlias, roses, heavenly bamboo, snow berries, sweet peas, bunny tails, pumpkins, tomatoes and an interesting cactus.

Gardening questions: To winter over carrots and parsnips do you cut off the tops? - No.

Compost. You can put it out in the fall but put out just a little and layer it with chopped leaves. Put the leaves first and cover with compost so they do not blow away.

Hydrangeas. Deadhead them but do not prune severely.

Egg shells are beneficial because snails hate them. They are good for tomatoes. They can be crushed and put in the compost.

The meeting broke for refreshment at 7:48 PM. It reconvened at 8:02.

Tonight's raffle included a bouquet of dahlias, a watering can, a peace lily and a donation from Crazy Daisy of a hanging garden in a box.

Kathy Code introduced tonight's speaker Emma Ross, the owner and founder of Wilder Restoration who is speaking on Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden. Her business focuses on urban restoration. There are over 1000 different pollinators in Canada and 60 different species of butterflies on Vancouver Island. Hundreds of other insects contribute to pollination. Most of our native bees are ground nesters. Those that do not nest in the ground or in hives can be found in any little cavity they can find.

Some bees have co-evolved with specific plants over thousands of years which is why native plants are so vital to your garden. Some relationships are so highly specialized that the bee and the specific plant can only exist with each other.

Challenges to pollination are habitat loss, pathogens, pesticides and parasites. Invasive plants are also detrimental to pollination because they cover the ground and make it inappropriate for

nesting. They also have no natural predators and they choke out native plants. Climate change also affects pollination because species may no longer emerge at the same time as the flowers they usually pollinate.

To help native pollinators, plant native plants, create gardens with continuous flowering, stop using pesticides, remove invasive plants and improve local diversity.

Meadowscaping is a way to make an impact on a small space. Container gardens with native plants will create a habitat for pollinators.

Suggested books to improve knowledge of pollinators:

- Vancouver Island Butterflies by Mike Yip and James Miskelly. Saanich, Satinflower Nurseries. 2014
- Bumble Bees of North America by Paul Williams. Princeton University Press.
- The Solitary Bees by B.N. Danforth et.al. Princeton University Press, 2019.
- Bees in Your Backyard: a guide to North American Bees by J.S. Wilson and O.M .Carril. Princeton University Press, 2019

Katherine Miller moved adjournment at 9:06 PM.

# Mixing it up

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