



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, September 25th, 2018**

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

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

Activities:

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



September Brag Table Theme: *Spectacular September*

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!

September Speaker:

Dr Shannon Berch

**Mycorrhizas in our Gardens:
What they do for us and what
we can do for them**

See page 3 for details

Inside...

- President's Report p 2
- This Month's Speaker p 3
- Executive/Committee Reports
- News etc p 5
- Barb's Gardening Tips p 6
- Upcoming Events p 7
- Fran Benton's Column p 8
- March mtg minutes p 9-10

Kitchen Duties:

A volunteer sign-up sheet for kitchen duties will be passed around at the September meeting. Please consider helping out next time when it comes your way!



***DON'T FORGET!
Bring your mug
for coffee/tea!***

President's Report

Donna Kaiser

Following a wonderful growing summer, our gardens are turning to the shades of fall and bringing with it another tempting window for change, improvement or just sitting back and enjoying the fact that we don't have to spend so much time watering. And of course enjoying the fruits of our labour.

After seeing the friendly faces of those who attended last week's executive meeting, my trepidation with this new role evaporated, and to my surprise, I was able to speak. As you may know, I'm more gardener than administrator, but will try my best to make this a successful year with the help of you all. Many thanks especially to the executive and committee members for helping to share the load.

We are anticipating a very busy night at the September 25 meeting since everyone will be renewing their memberships for the year. To speed up the process, please try to bring the exact amount (\$10). Cash or cheque payable to: Mill Bay Garden Club. JoAnn Mulhern and Dave Byrnes will be attending to memberships, with Ajay Oppelaar directing traffic at the door.

Looking forward to the upcoming year and hope to seeing you all on the 25th.



“Sunshine Mary”



Our esteemed Life Member Mary Gale, has for a very many years, been sending cards and kind words to those members who are experiencing illness or loss. She does this on behalf of the Mill Bay Garden Club, bringing a spot of sunshine into what is often 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 Mary know and she will send a card on our behalf. Mary is seen here with an excited admirer.

September's Speaker:

Dr Shannon Berch on

“Mycorrhizas in Our Gardens: What They Do For Us and What We Can Do For Them”

Abstract:

In this presentation, I will summarize the major types of mycorrhizal fungi that associate with plants in our gardens and how they function in our garden ecosystems. I will also touch on the value of mycorrhizal inoculants for garden plants and on garden activities that benefit mycorrhizal fungi.

Committee Reports

Plant Table

It's time to get out & plant again!

We look forward to bringing more alpaca gold to the first garden club meeting. Also we have about 10 ginkos in one gallon pots. The seedlings were donated by the master gardeners at our flower & garden show. They are now about 10 in. tall & healthy specimens. Also a rosemary bush in a 5 gallon pot. Got some perennials you've split & like to donate? Share some harvest?

We look forward to your surprises! See you Sept 25!

*Your friendly plant sales team,
Monika Morgan & Sharon Martin*

Membership

Welcome to the 2018 - 2019 season of the Mill Bay Garden Club. I hope to see all of you at our first fall meeting on Sept. 25.

After renewing your membership with Treasurer Marie (either between 6:30 - 7 pm or during the break), please stop by the Membership table to ensure that I have your name and correct contact information.

JoAnn

Committee Reports (Cont'd)

Library Notes

Please take a look around, over, and under those forgotten places in your home. There were 20 books borrowed last May and 20 overdue books from 2017-18 for a total of 40 books that must be returned this month! No need to dust them! Just bring them back as is.

A subscription to **Birds and Blooms** magazine has been ordered for our club and should be arriving later this autumn, making our newsletter editor very happy.

Any special requests for books or publications? Let me know anytime!

*Your friendly librarian,
Janice Rose*

Raffle Table Report

Welcome, fellow gardeners, to the 2018/2019 Mill Bay Garden Club year! I'm excited about taking on the running of the raffle table during our monthly meetings and hope to adequately follow in the grand footsteps of those before me: Tracy, Bobbie, Carmel to name a few. The Raffle will consist of 4 to 5 items that will be your choice to place your tickets against, plus a Grand Prize that is chosen from all the tickets purchased over the course of the evening. Tickets, as always, are 3 for \$1 and can be bought before the meeting begins, or during the coffee break.

Donations for the Raffle Table are always welcome. I would ask that they either be new or anything that you have crafted yourself (eg., birdhouse, flower arrangement, greeting cards....the list is endless). The donation that you make will likely be used in the following month's raffle. Also If anyone can help me at the raffle table during the coffee break that would be most appreciated as sale of tickets can be fast and furious at that time!

Looking forward to seeing you all at our first meeting of the gardening year on September 25th!

Cori-Lee Fisher

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*



All the News That's Fit (That Fits)

Call for Pots

Elaine Scott needs one gallon plant pots for the **Charity Plant Sale**. If you have any could you bring them to the September meeting. If for any reason Elaine cannot be at the meeting Monika Morgan will take them home for her. Elaine is desperate so your help would be greatly appreciated.

Feasting from the Garden!

Wondering what to do with all the fruits (and the veggies!) of your labour? This season, the MBGC Newsletter is kicking off a new feature! We aim to include a club member's favourite recipe every issue, and we start with Heather Jenkins's Plum Sauce! If you'd like to contribute, send your recipe to mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com!

PLUM SAUCE

1. Wash and drain the plums (damsons are preferred).
2. Heat slowly in a covered pan in the oven overnight at 110 C/225F.
3. Drain.
4. Simmer 600ml (1pint/2.5 cups) juice with 8oz/1cup granulated sugar for 30 minutes until a quarter of the juice has evaporated.
5. Pour into clean bottles and seal.

This is an old fashioned remedy for coughs, colds and sore throats.

It is also delicious over vanilla ice cream.

Heather Jenkins



Gardening Tips for September 2018 by Barb Kohlman

- Stop pruning and fertilizing, let your plants start to go dormant.
- Bring summer vacationing houseplants back indoors while the windows are still open. Check carefully for hitchhiking pests.
- Start fall clean-up in the flower beds, cutting back anything that has finished blooming or is diseased.
- Take cuttings to overwinter indoors or in the greenhouse.
- Photograph your gardens and containers for a record of the year's triumphs and frustrations.
- Give the compost one last turn, and make sure it is moist.
- Divide and move perennials (spring flowering ones, please!)
- Dig and store tender bulbs like: caladiums, cannas and tuberous begonias. Wait to do your dahlias till next month, they are probably blooming wonderfully still.
- Start planting spring flowering bulbs.
- I am adding mulch to the edges of my beds and in areas where nothing is planted to protect the soil. Wait to do regular beds till the soil has cooled to avoid keeping it unnaturally warm.

Cheers — barb k

Mixing It Up - Be Quick!

A reminder of this wonderful event - the Victoria Master Gardeners Association's **Mixing It Up in the Urban Garden** day-long event "**Beauty and the Beast**" takes place at the Mary Minspear Centre in Sidney on 2 February 2019 from 9am—4pm. Cost is \$85 'til 14 October, thereafter \$100.

Cost includes delicious food at lunch and breaks, and free parking.

Registration is open now, and as of 15 September, of the 250 tickets available there are only 80 left so good to get in if folks want to go. Registration details here: <http://www.karelo.com/register.php?BID=641&BT=10&PrivEv=18106> (or try www.karelo.com/login.com if that doesn't work!)

Upcoming Events

- On the off chance you missed it on the previous page, the Victoria Master Gardeners Association's "Mixing It Up" event takes place in February 2019. Registration is limited and tickets are going fast!

Saturday Workshops at Dinters

- **Gardening for the Spring Wakeup. 29 September, 10am**
Before you take out the clippers and do the fall chop, attend this seminar to make sure you're doing what's best for your garden and the wildlife in it. This seminar will explore the dos and don'ts of the fall garden cleanup, how to ensure your plants are their healthiest in spring, and how to deal with protecting plants for cold winter temperatures. Seminar will be lead by gardener and Dinter Nursery staff member Monica.
- **Cuttings/Propagation Workshop. 13 October 10am**
Learn from our very own Greenhouse Manager how to take cuttings and propagate your favourite plants. Propagating your own plants is a great way to save a few dollars, and grow your plant collection!

Horticulture Centre of the Pacific Events (sign up at hcp.ca)

- **FALL PLANT SALE! Saturday 22 September 9am-4pm**
Many unique plants are propagated from the gardens. All plant prices are reduced by at least 20%. Admissions into the Gardens is free on plant sale day and Master Gardeners will be available to answer your questions. All proceeds raised from the plant sale support the development of our not-for-profit teaching gardens.
- **Advanced Pruning Workshop. Saturday 6 October 9am-4pm**
Are you a hands-on gardener hesitant to prune small trees and shrubs in fear of injuring or undesirably altering them? This course with certified arborist Ryan Senechal will give you the skills you need to successfully prune your garden. In 2 sessions, basic pruning techniques and advanced strategies will be reviewed and applied to teach you how to achieve desirable structure, reduced maintenance & long term plant health in your garden. This is an outdoor workshop, please dress accordingly and bring your secateurs, all other equipment will be supplied! HCP Members \$90 Non-Members \$110. To register, call 250 479 6162

When Good Garden Cats Go Bad by Fran Benton

As a master gardener, I am often asked to recommend a plant for a certain place. When I think of all the kinds of possibilities, a few tried and true plants come to mind. It needs to have nice flowers, be tolerant of kids, deer, rabbits, neglect, nature's whims, and our pets.

Well, I can think of one such group of plants - the catmints. These are not the catnips although they are related to them. Catmints or Nepeta are a group of small shrubby plants and herbs that have wonderful spikes of cool purply blue flowers. They can be large and bushy (6 hills giant) or much smaller and herb-like (Nepeta Blue Panther). One of my truly happy moments is to watch our resident herd of deer mosey past the catmint without any interest at all. Smaller catmints are nice in containers too. The catmints benefit from the "Chelsea Chop" which is a cutting down of exuberant vegetation at the time of the Chelsea Flower Show in May. The catmints respond by throwing out fat new shoots that will look spectacular and last all through the fall. They are easy to propagate by splitting in the spring.

The genus Nepeta is, of course, the genus that includes *Nepeta cativa*. I don't need to tell you what this stuff does to the feline nip addicts. Please examine the depraved behaviour on Monika's kitty cat's face. There are no institutions available at present to deal with this dreadful addiction problem. Some cats are more prone than others to fall victim to the allure of the catmint family. Sometimes as cats age they grow out of the love for nip. Others just lie there in the plant pot and drool.

Ever wonder why cats get silly on catnip? The chemical compound in the plant is called nepetalactone. It is found in the leaves and stems. The effects last for about 10 minutes before wearing off and the cat going back to normal.

If the cat smells catnip, it acts as a stimulant and you better watch out! However if the cat eats the nip it acts as a sedative and they get sleepy. And if they eat too much they will present it back to you in a way that is not pleasant!

Happy gardening and don't forget to water!



Mill Bay Garden Club

General Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Call to Order: 7:09 pm

Acceptance of April 2018 Minutes

- Moved Janice Rose
- Seconded Al Mickalishun
- All in favour, Carried

President's Report: Ajay Oppelaar

- Thank you to set up crew and kitchen
- Member forum requests
- Questions about presidents report
- Everyone applauded Ajay's article in the paper
- Open committee positions- Vice President, raffle person needed
- AGM sign up list distributed

VP Report: Mary Vandenberg for Cliff Stainsby

- Tour -Head gardener at Royal Roads will show roses, June 9th 10 am, no entrance but pay parking
- Garden tour update- thank you to all the gardens that have been opened!

Treasurer Report: Marie Cooke

- We have \$926.46 in our account. Bursary is \$1000. Please get your receipts in.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Flower and garden show: Gillian Keir

- No ramp at Cobble Hill hall. There is a storage room arranged under the stairs. Everything has to be carried up stairs that will make moving things difficult. Need a strong person to lift things up stairs. Everything looks organized. Hopefully! We have 2 extra signs to go up for high traffic areas. Posters and brochures are available. **Return all signs to Gillian after event.** E-mail going out tonight to remind everyone of their volunteer positions. Thank you Gillian!

Membership Jo-Ann Mulhern

- We have one new member, bringing us to 142 members now.

...Continued on next page

Raffle: Tracy Morris and Cori-Lee Fisher

- Lots of lovely things in raffle! Grand prize is a Chalibrachola.

Plant Sales: Heather Jenkins and Sharon Martin for Monica Morgan

- 2 buckets of alpaca gold available.

Library, Library, Bursary, Bill's Helpers: Janice Rose

- Janice will be presenting our very first Mill Bay Garden Club bursary in 35 years. The award goes to a student at Francis Kelsey who is going into horticulture.
- Bill's helpers sign up needed, tons of information available from Bill. So much fun and you get an amazing mentor.
- Library loan tonight is due in September.

Member Forum

- Al Mikalishan. Bill Herring's lawn bowling available contact Al.
- Elaine Scott. The garden show sale of plants needs your contributions. She would like you to bring plants to Elaine's tomorrow or Thursday. We will be cleaning and pricing, sorting them. Please bring all your plants we need lots. Please label them too.

Brag Table: Barb Kohlman "May Bee or May Bee Not!"

Ajay presents "How to Prepare for the Garden Show"

- Ajay spoke and demonstrated how you prepare your plants to enter the garden show categories.

Coffee Break

Raffle

Speaker: Barb Munton spoke about the extensive collection of roses in her garden and how to select the best rose varieties.

Adjourn: 9 pm