



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

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Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, January 22, 2019**

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!



January Speaker: Dustin Carlsen

Decorating your Garden: Art and Creativity in the Garden

See page 3 for details

January Brag Table Theme January Surprises

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!

Help Needed! Apply within!

Still urgently seeking
Raffle Table Person

See Page 4 for details.

Kitchen Helpers:

1 litre of 2% milk: Monika Morgan

Cookies/Snacks: Janice Rose, Monika Morgan, Donna Kaiser, Marie Cooke

Kitchen Helpers: ***Two Kitchen Helpers Needed***
Please email Pat if you can help

Set-up/clean up*:

** please arrive by 6:30.*

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DON'T FORGET!
bring your mug
for coffee/tea!

President's Report

Donna Kaiser

With another year upon us, Happy New Year's wishes to you all. What a great time of year for fostering garden dreams. May all your gardening plans come as close as possible to your wishful ideas.

Working in my garden in the last few days has been very pleasant, with much new growth to show for it: winter aconite, snowdrops, crocus and hellebore. The bright cheery aconites simply warm the heart.

A number of club events will be coming up which should make the rest of winter slide by without feeling too housebound: Seedy Saturday and Mixing It Up, to name a couple.

We are still looking for someone to run our raffle, so please give some thought to helping us if you can. The raffle adds a very fun addition to our meetings, and as Raffle Person you will also be joining the club executive. These meetings are pretty enjoyable as well, as I am finding with my position. Looking forward to seeing you all on the 22nd,

Cheers, Donna

Food Bank!

Thanks to the generosity of members at the Christmas Party Potluck last month, the Mill Bay Garden Club raised a donation of **\$250.00** for the Food Bank! Well done, everyone!



2019 Flower & Garden Show

May 25th & 26th, 2019

The 2019 Mill Bay Garden Club Community Flower and Garden Show will be held on May 25th and 26th at the Cobble Hill Hall. Please start thinking about what you would like to do.

We still need committee heads for the **Silent Auction, Inside Hall Coordinator, Publicity & Promotion**. I will bring the printed list, with the description of these committees, and other jobs, to circulate at the General Meeting.

Thanks,

Gill Keir

“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.



January's Speaker:

Dustin Carlsen on

“Decorating your Garden: Art and Creativity in the Garden”

An overview of art, styles and trends from gardens around the world. Finding what appeals on an individual level, and how to transition that into your own space.

Plus a case study of upcoming and previous garden designs that Dustin has been a part of during his 20 year career of crafting ornamental statuary and landscape design.

Committee Reports

Raffle Table

Another successful raffle at our November meeting - a big thank you to all those who participated, and to Bobbie Burns for helping at the raffle table. Donations were:

- a yummy looking (and I'm sure tasting) Pear Gingerbread Cheesecake made from scratch by our own Marie Cooke
- a bottle of wine, and corkscrew, from Enrico Vineyards
- a large arrangement of various plants in a wicker basket from "Anonymous"
- 3 starter pots of Bill Herring's very special, guaranteed-to-grow English Sweet Peas

And heads up.... a special treat for the first club meeting of 2019: Dustin Carlsen has agreed to run the Raffle event! Rumour has it that he will be most ably assisted by Ajay so you know it will be a fun time for all. My thanks to them both for stepping up on such short notice - please show your support by buying lots of raffle tickets!

And for me -- one last opportunity to say "so long, it's been good to know ya!".... In Sept 2011, Bernie Dinter suggested I contact the Mill Bay Garden Club when I went to him with some gardening questions I had. So I made a phone call and had a lovely chat with someone named "Ajay". Ajay (President at that time) warmly welcomed me to the next meeting and from there began a friendship with the most caring, generous, knowledgeable, and fun-loving group that I have ever had the privilege to be a part of - and that is you! I will miss you all, but will stay in touch with various members and thus keep up with news of the club. I know our paths will cross again, hopefully often, and in the meantime I wish each and every one of you the very best for happy gardening and happy hearts in 2019!

Warmest regards, Cori-Lee

Committee Reports (Cont'd)

Plant Table

There seem to be a few surprises popping up & out in some of our gardens. Any you would like to share? Hellebores, herbs, primulas, snow drops just to mention a few? Perhaps some veggies that are still doing well? Surprise us. Also, if you have some garden tools that you no longer favor or need perhaps bring those to donate. If you have empty alpaca buckets at home, we'd much appreciate getting them back to refill again in the next couple of months.

Thank you to Elaine Scott for sharing her big crop of kiwis in November. If you took some home from the meeting & placed them in a dark place, remember to check on them periodically. They may be close to being ripe soon.

*your plant sales team
Monika & Sharon.*

Membership

There are currently **124** members in the Garden Club. Our 2018 Fall meetings have been very well attended.

Reminder: If you have not yet paid the \$10 membership fee for 2018 -2019, please do so at the January General Meeting on Jan. 22.

JoAnn Mulhern

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*

Notes from the Library

There are always new and spectacular additions to our library. Come and check out all the latest books on January 22. Please remember to return all those books that were borrowed last autumn.

*Your friendly librarian,
Janice Rose*

*** Raffle Table Person Required ***

Looking for a way to support the club? Consider taking over the running of the Raffle Table! Let Donna or Bernie know if you are interested. Their contact details are in the sidebar on page 3.

January Surprises 1, Bernie Juurlink



Gardening Tips for January-February 2019 by Barb Kohlman

STAY OFF YOUR SOIL until it warms a bit more — especially if you have a wet garden, (so hopefully you have stepping stones near plants that need attention now).

My Hellebores are starting to bloom, so this tells me it is time to remove last years' leaves – down to the ground to allow the full display of the flowers and to encourage new leaves to form. Most of mine are near the edge of the borders so soil compaction won't be an issue.

Cut your sword ferns and grasses down now — before new growth really starts. It won't hurt to offer them a nutrient feed now too. And I still prefer a liquid organic fertilizer.

Order seeds if you haven't already, and start them under glass or under lights---

Protect new growth from those pesky rabbits – hanging metal baskets turned upside down over plants work very well.

I particularly have to do this, for my *Erythronium* spp. (fawn lilies) as they lose all their flowers to these pests.

Check your snowdrops — mine are showing colour quite nicely and I have brought a small arrangement inside for pleasure.

If you have a fig tree and want better production, you should consider Bob Duncan's YouTube video for excellent instruction—search on **pruning fig trees youtube**.

I am a lazy fall gardener so now is the time I start to clean up my beds that have been protected by leaf debris etc. over the winter. I want my early blooming bulbs etc. to show well, so weather permitting and still being careful of my soil to avoid compaction, I will remove old foliage and debris, transferring it to the compost and when the soil warms I will spread about 2 inches of fresh, mature mulch or compost to “feed the soil”.



Cheers — barb k

CFLA Fundraiser Garden Tour Still Seeking Help

The Cowichan Garden Tour, sponsored by the Cowichan Family Life Association is happening Mother's Day, May 12, 2019. They are still looking for volunteers to be Garden Greeters for 4 hours in the morning or afternoon.

Upcoming Events

- **Seedy Saturdays!**
 - Qualicum Beach: February 2, 10am - 3:30pm, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones St, Qualicum Beach. Info sheet at the end of the newsletter.
 - Victoria: February 16, 10 am - 4pm, Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas St. Admission \$8, under 16 free.
 - Sooke: February 23, 10am - 3pm, Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Rd, opposite the Legion on Eustace Rd.
 - Cobble Hill: March 9, 10am - 2pm, Cobble Hill Hall, Watson Ave, Cobble Hill.
- **Victoria Chrysanthemum Society, Sat 26 Jan, 2pm.**
1647 Chandler. Regular Meeting.
- **Victoria Cactus & Succulent Society, Wed 30 Jan, 730pm.**
4725 Falaise Topic TBA.
- **Mixing It Up in the Urban Garden, Sat 2 Feb, 9am-4pm.**
The Victoria Master Gardeners Association's day-long event "Beauty and the Beast" takes place at the Mary Minspear Centre in Sidney. *This is a reminder for ticket holders, as the event is sold out.*
- **Dinter Seminars: Starting Seeds, Sat 2 Feb, 10am.**
Hands on demo on how we start our seeds with Della, Dinter's Greenhouse Manager. Free, registration not required.
- **HCP Workshop: Willow Chair, Sun 3 Feb 9 am-5 pm.**
505 Quayle. With Andrew Kent \$250 members/\$275 non-members.
- **Gordon Head Garden Club, Mon 4 Feb, 7pm.**
4201 Tyndall. Regular Meeting.
- **Victoria Rhododendron Society, Mon 4 Feb, 730pm.**
HCP, 505 Quayle. Ann Nightingale, *Victoria Birds*.
- **Victoria Dahlia Society, Thu 7 Feb, 730pm.**
The Victorian, 4000 Douglas. Regular Meeting.

Continued on next page...

More Upcoming Events

- **Dinter Seminars: Basic Fruit Tree Pruning, Sat 9 Feb, 10am.**
Demo of the basic pruning of fruit trees and small fruits with Bernie Dinter.
Free, registration not required.
- **HCP Workshop: Pine Needle Basket, Sat 9 Feb 9:30 am–4:30 pm.**
505 Quayle. With Joan Carrigan \$120 members/\$140 non-members.
- **HCP Workshop: Foraging Winter Food Plants, Sat 9 Feb 1–3 pm.**
505 Quayle. With Latifa Pelletier-Ahmed \$30 members/\$35 non-members.
- **Dinter Seminars: Composting, Sat 16 Feb, 10am.**
Learn basics of backyard compost to create material for healthy gardens, with Bernie Dinter.
Free, registration not required.
- **Dinter Seminars: Master Gardener Clinic, Sat 16 Feb 10am-3pm.**
Bring your questions for a detailed explanation, with Cowichan Valley Master Gardeners.
Free, registration not required.
- **Dinter Workshop: Fruit Tree Propagation, Sat 23 Feb, 10am-230pm(?).**
How to propagate apple trees. Bring own scion wood or select our varieties.
Pre-register and Pay \$15 for 5 root stock and materials.
- **Victoria Hardy Plant Group 2019 Elizabeth England Lecture, Tue 26 Feb, 7pm.**
John Anderson will speak about his work as head gardener at many of England's most prestigious gardens. See the info sheet at the end of the newsletter.
- **Dinter Seminars: Basic Fruit Tree Pruning, Sat 2 Mar, 10am.**
Demo of the basic pruning of fruit trees and small fruits, with Bernie Dinter.
Free, registration not required.
- Bill Dumont is promoting his tours (which include some gardens) to the Holy Land (May 2019) and Haida Gwaii (June & September 2019).



Adventures with Hoses by Fran Benton

Is spring here yet? Did you get everything tidied up in the fall? You are all prepared ready to go – right? Oh dear, you never got around to the big fall tidy up. Let's face it, there were demanding birds needing their feeders filled, hoses to disconnect, spray nozzles to unscrew and store, and so many tools to maintain AND only the birds got fed.

This year I absolutely promised someone that I would remove the nozzles, drain the hoses, and turn the water off to the outside taps. Every year I promise this. Something always distracts me and I forget. So today with the promise of growing weather around the corner we clean up the garden like we should have in November. First it's the hoses. I watch as someone who has turned the water on presses the hose nozzle for the first time in 2019. The nozzle cracks shooting a massive jet of freezing water into someone's crotch. I find this hugely amusing but, as you can imagine, someone is a whole lot less amused.

I also have a scarecrow motion activated nozzle that is a fabulous deer deterrent. It detects the deer and shoots a big blast of water at them. The deer fly off in all directions! Also very amusing. It works well on annoying neighbors, dogs, cats, and door-to-door visitors.

So every year we trek to the hardware store and buy new nozzles. The first thing to consider when buying a hose nozzle is the material it is made out of. Brass, zinc, or aluminum are the best materials for hose nozzles and will last much longer than plastic. There are two major parts of a nozzle – the sprayer and the handle. Depending on the price and brand, these can be made from many different materials. Most are made from metal, plastic, or a combination. Then you have to choose between pistol grips, dial nozzles, water wands, fan nozzles, fireman's nozzles, traditional nozzles, and bubble nozzles.

Complicated? Well, how about a simpler less accurate guide to new nozzles:

- Pistol grips – best used in Arizona with the required permits
- Dial nozzles- nozzles with soap, used for cleaning cars
- Water wands- used by wizards
- Fan nozzle- beloved of geishas
- Fireman's nozzles- comes with a complementary calendar, oh my!
- Traditional nozzles- yawn
- And finally Bubble nozzles- useful for outdoor shampooing, comes in different scents and colours!

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

7:00 pm Tuesday 27 November 2018 at Mill Bay Community Centre

1. Call to Order 7:01

2. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes

Moved Dave Byrnes

Seconded Bill Herring

3. **President's Report:** Donna Kaiser

- Thank you to set up and kitchen crew

- Raffle person needed as our wonderful Cori-Lee is leaving us. Please contact Donna if you can help.

Bookcase and trophy case Janice and Donna will look into this project over the winter and get back to us later. Thanks girls!

Christmas Party

Sign up sheet sent around for helpers 6 persons for set up, 6 for clean up

No one knew where the tablecloths have gone to.

items provided by club turkey and gravy ham punch coffee and tea

Potluck items to bring: appies, salads, vegie side dishes, desserts

Personal plates, cutlery, mugs, required

Dave will send out a reminder of this list of things to remember

There will be prizes available for table centres, raffle, and word jumble

There will be a gift exchange \$10 limit bring a wrapped present.

Choral singing looking for performers

Pauline will collect cash in envelopes for the food bank.

6. **Secretary's Report: Fran Benton**

The Cowichan press publishes a garden article for us each month. The press has a new owner Eric that is very supportive of the club so remember them for your printing needs.

Committee Reports:

Raffle: Cori-Lee Fisher and Bobbi Burns

There were 3 excellent items and a grand prize. The new system of pulling the tickets all at once seems to be working as a great time saver.

Plant sales: Monica Morgan

Monica had a huge pile of stuff on the plant sales. Thanks to everyone for your contributions.

Library: Janice Rose

There are some terrific new books and magazines to sign out. Janice informed us of the bursary status.

Kitchen: Pat Spezowka

Pat has this kitchen thing organized and running like clockwork. Thanks Pat!

Flower and Garden show- Bernie passed a volunteer sign up around.

8. Members' Forum: Bill Herring

Bill discussed shallots, broad beans, and sweet peas.

9. Brag Table: Barb Kohlman

11. Short refreshment break

12. Raffle

13 Miscellaneous

Mary Gale is getting better and enjoyed her letters from everyone and Ajay's bottle of liquid comfort!

14. Tonight's Speaker: **Barb Kohlman "Garden Designs in a Flash"**

15. Adjournment: 9:00pm