



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, April 23, 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!

March Speaker:

Bernie Dinter

*Spring Flowering Bulbs:
Beyond Tulips and Daffodils*



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APRIL

April Brag Table Theme Showers Bring Flowers

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!

Meeting Helpers:

Cookies/Snacks: Grace MacDougall, Ann Baty, Carolyn Morris, Heather Jenkins

Kitchen Helpers: Kathy Muirhead, Grace MacDougall

Set-up/clean up*: Marion Johnston

** please arrive by 6:30.*



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

President's Report

Donna Kaiser

The welcomed rain has turned our gardens into spectacular colour overnight it seems. Interestingly, the bulbs seem more brilliant this year—but perhaps it is just the stark contrast from our recent cold winter. I am enjoying them all, along with the new tree growth and the sweet spring smell of the cottonwoods.

With our gardens coming alive, perhaps you might think about opening your garden to the Club this year? You can choose a date and time that works for you and your garden, and gardens in all stages of development are welcome. We enjoy gardens as they are, so don't worry about projects unfinished or feeling overwhelmed by excess weeds. I showed my garden last year and it was a very enjoyable day of learning from and communicating with fellow like-minded gardeners.

The Flower and Garden Show seems to be well underway, and Club organizers report that everything is on schedule. If you haven't thought of a silent auction contribution yet, please give it some thought and let Mary Jean know your intention. Unfortunately, I will not be at the show this year, but for a great reason: I will be at the Chelsea Flower Show in London!

For those anxious about entering flowers for our show, Ajay will be giving a demonstration on how to best do this at our upcoming April 23 meeting. That should take the pressure off.

Gill Keir has offered to host our upcoming AGM on June 25, 2019. Details will be finalized and distributed at the May meeting.

We have a new library cupboard at the hall, so our Club library books will be moved and in place by this week. Come and check them out!

Sincerely, Donna

2019 Flower & Garden Show

May 24th & 25th, 2019

The Flower and Garden Show Committee report that preparations are going well. For those of you who won't be able to attend the meeting on the 23rd, there will be an update on volunteer help at that meeting and, if we are short in any category, I will send out a membership email outlining what we still need. Donations are starting to come in and I remind any of you who wish to donate, to please contact me. Set up day is May 24th and Show day is May 25th. Thank you all.



March's Speaker:

Bernie Dinter on Spring Flowering Bulbs: Beyond Tulips and Daffodils

Abstract

Tulips & Daffodils steal the show for spring colour but there are many lesser known bulbs that deserve attention. Once established they will herald spring with drifts of colour for years to come. Most naturalize easily, are deer resistant and are adapted to our dry summer climate. With their smaller size and delicate features, they can fit into rock gardens and small-scale settings.

Bernie Dinter has lived all his life in Shawnigan Lake, arriving there as a child from Germany. He grew up on the campus of Shawnigan Lake School, where his father was gardener. Bernie graduated from Shawnigan Lake School in 1969 and in 1976 graduated from UBC with a degree in Plant Science. His father began 'Dinter's Nursery' in 1973 and Bernie joined it full time after graduation. The nursery has been supporting gardeners in the Cowichan Valley for 45 years and now draws customers from all over Vancouver Island.

“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.



Committee Reports

Plant Table

Come visit the Plant Table before the meeting starts or during the break, and see what we have on offer!

*your friendly plant sales team
Monika Morgan & Sharon Martin*

Membership

Zoe Clement and Val Townsend became members of the MBGC at our March general meeting. A warm welcome to you both.

JoAnn Mulhern

Notes from the Library

April is super exciting for our library. The big move to our new storage cupboard begins in earnest. Chaos will ensue but have faith. Many thanks to all those who have offered to help transfer books from our basement and to those who will eventually help organize and sort our collection.

A big thank you to Wendy and Al Mikalishen for their help with the library at the March and April general meetings.

For those of you who have Netflix try watching Monty Don "Big Dreams, Small Spaces". This series takes place in the UK and is energizing, entertaining and educational. Enjoy!

*Your friendly librarian,
Janice Rose*

MBGC Bursary

Thrilling news! We have received one Bursary application from Frances Kelsey School and more are in the mail coming from Cowichan Secondary. Once all the applications have arrived the Bursary committee will be called together to make a decision on possible recipients. We will keep the members informed of all of our decisions.

Janice Rose



Gardening Tips for April-May 2019 by Barb Kohlman

Using coat hangers as garden “stakes”. From wire hangers, cut the bottom in half, cut the top off = staples to secure soaker hoses, row covers, and plastic cloches.



Hardy Ferns made Easy: If you have some shady sites perhaps some ferns would add texture to your garden--- a few favourites ---native western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*) is good for dry shade, so under cedars and firs. There are many cultivars with finer foliage that add interest to the garden. How about maidenhair ferns--- (*Adiantum* spp.)--- there are many variations, all beautiful.

Employ colour to attract birds and pollinators; red and orange for hummingbirds; blue, purple, violet, white and yellow for bees; and dark pink, purple, red, orange and yellow for butterflies.

Birds don't require much to be attracted to a home in your garden. A wooden box in partial sun with a hole near the top and an overhang to keep out the rain is usually enough. Rough interior walls help the young to climb out.

Your tender bulbs are happy to be planted out soon – dahlias, cannas and gladioli.

Use an edger to set your beds and keep grass at bay. In perennial beds, keep weeds under control by weeding often and using mulch to cover bare patches, or plant thickly to crowd out those invaders.

I sprinkle, liberally, Borden's Organic Mix under my new mulch layer to add a nitrogen source.

Stake those tall growing perennials NOW.

You are likely already using your lawn mower. Keep it in good condition with sharp blades for the best results, mow to a height of 2 ½ inches and when the heat comes let it go dormant--less work and so much easier on the water bill and environment.

Cheers

Barb Kohlman



Acres of Seedlings by Fran Benton

I am really hoping I am not the only one who started too many seeds this spring. When it came time to pot the little beauties on there was a big problem. All the little beauties sprouted and grew. If I potted them all on I would need at least 50 big plant trays full of pots and soil. I did the math and that is 1275 pots! OMG! Way way too many seedlings! That means that I have to decide who gets to live and who goes to the compost. I feel terrible when this happens, as each little stem with its 2 tiny leaves seems like a new friend. I imagine it as a huge flower or vegetable and I just feel bad. So this leaves me apologizing to them as they go in the compost bin. It would sound like this.

Um, sorry buddy, this hurts me as much as it does you. "Well, no!" says Mr. Seedling. "I spent all this time pushing out of my seed capsule and got this nice stem and leaves, and what thanks do I get?" "Look" says me, "I really got carried away with the flinging of seed all over the tray" "I will not do it again, I promise" "Yeah, right" says Mr. Seedling, You are a bad gardener and you wasted seed. You could have fridged the remaining seed and we would have grown next year for you. You could have shared your extra seed with neighbours and friends. You could stop getting carried away and buying too many packets of seed to start with. So go ahead and put me in your compost. Maybe I'll defy the odds and grow on anyway. I'll be the big nasty Salvia that is looking out for you lady! You just watch the way you stroll past the compost. I'll be there looking for you!"

Sigh, get over it Fran, you grew too many seedlings. But wait a minute! What about the packet of expensive Russian Sage seed that I bought and one single seedling grew! Stokes likes to say "It is one of the easiest perennials to grow from seed." Yeah right! So what do I learn from this yearly battle with plants? Read the seed packet. Don't plant so many seeds. Avoid the treacherously mad Salvia in the compost!

Or you could just come to the Mill Bay Garden Club's meeting 4th Tuesday of the month 6:45 at the Mill Bay Hall.

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE

MAY 25, 2019. 9:00 TO 2:00 AT THE COMMUNITY FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

Your Plant Sale Committee is hoping that you are having a great time potting up plants for the May, Mill Bay Garden Club plant sale. We kindly ask you to refrain from donating invasive plants.

Sometimes you may not realize that your plants are invasive. The Committee will help you out and remove any plants from the sale that it considers invasive.

If everyone donated five plants each imagine what a great plant sale we would have. Last year we made \$1,170 which all went back to the community so it is for a great cause and assists the Mill Bay Garden Club in its goal to be a responsible member of our vibrant community.

Also, please, please, please label your plants. It is very difficult to sell plants if we do not know exactly what they are. We try very hard to identify them but sometimes we are just unable to.

Your Plant Sale Committee thanks you.

MILL BAY PLANTAHOLICS PLANT SALE

The Mill Bay Plantaholics (Ali Morris, Sharon Martin, Barb Kohlman, Noreen Carver, Jill Jones and Elaine Scott) would like to thank all of those wonderful Garden Club members who came out and supported our plant sale on April 13.

Although the weather was not kind to us we did have a very successful sale. We actually made \$3,040 which will be divided between Somenos House in Duncan, (a program of the Cowichan Women Against Violence Society) and the Malawi Girls on the Move program (where the money will provide a scholarship for a young Malawian woman to complete her secondary school education). These are two great organizations that are always very happy to receive the donation from the plant sale.

We would also like to thank David Byrnes for putting information on the sale in the newsletter, Pauline Dueck for putting the information on the Garden Club Facebook page and Gord Hamilton for putting it on the web site. Thank you one and all for your support.

Upcoming Events

- **HCP Spring Plant Sale, Sat-Sun 27 & 28 April 9am - 4pm**
Gardens at HCP, 505 Quayle Rd. More information [CLICK HERE](#) or 250 479-6162.
- **Cowichan Valley Garden Club Annual Spring Sale, Sat 27 April 9 – noon**
St. John's Anglican Church Hall, 486 Jubilee St., Duncan. Admission \$2.00 - Our annual plant sale is always greatly anticipated by new and experienced gardeners alike. Plants on offer include interesting, unusual, and hard-to-find specimens donated by our members, so you're sure to find the perfect plant for your garden! Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Abkhazi Garden Spring Plant Sale, Sun 28 April 9:00 – noon**
Abkhazi Garden, 1964 Fairfield Road. Lost some plants over the winter? We've got your replacements! Come and buy interesting plants, most grown at the Garden. Irises, shade perennials and unique garden gems. Stay for a wander around the Garden and to buy refreshments in the Teahouse. Proceeds of the plant sale to Friends of Abkhazi Garden Society for use in Abkhazi Garden projects. Rain or shine. Cash or cheques only. For more information: www.friendsofabkhazi.ca or visit Abkhazi Garden on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.
- **North Island Rhododendron Society Sale and Show, Sun 28 Apr 10am-1pm**
See poster at end of the newsletter
- **Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club Plant Sale, Sat 11 May 9am til Sold Out**
See poster at end of the newsletter
- **Nanoose Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, Sat 11 May 9am - 1pm**
Annual Plant Sale at Nanoose Library Centre, Northwest Bay Road. Vegetables, Heritage Tomatoes and Perennials; Master Gardeners in Attendance; NANOOSE LIBRARY FUNDRAISER; Mixed Vendor Market, Garden Themed White Elephant Sale, Hot Dog Vendor; Bring Your Family, Friends and Neighbours. Info: Plant Sale - Loraine (250) 468-9749; Library Fundraiser – Sue (250) 240-5511. See poster at end of newsletter.
- **Victoria Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show & Plant Sale, Sat 11 May 10 – 5 pm**
*** STILL TO CONFIRMED***
Church of the Advent, 510 Mt. View Road, Colwood. Members' plants for sale.
- **Annual Mother's Day Musical Garden Tour, Sat-Sun 11 & 12 May 10 – 4 pm**
Assorted locations in support of the Victoria Conservatory of Music. More info at: <http://vcm.bc.ca/victoria-garden-tour/>

More Upcoming Events

- **Sooke Garden Club Plant Sale, Sat 11 May 10 am – 2 pm**
Evergreen Centre, Sooke
- **Gordon Head Garden Club Plant Sale, Sat 11 May 9:00 am - noon**
Former Gordon Head United Church, 4201 Tyndall Ave. There will be a variety of plants and gardening related items. Everyone is welcome. Garden members available to answer questions and give free advice regarding your garden.
- **North Island Rhododendron Society Mother's Day Garden Tour, Sun 12 May 10am-4pm**
See poster at end of the newsletter
- **Tomato Day, Sat 18 May 9-noon**
Gardens at HCP, 505 Quayle Rd. Organically grown veggie transplants for sale. More information [CLICK HERE](#) or 250 479-6162
- **Huge Plant Sale, Sat-Sun 18 & 19 May 9 am-3 pm**
2215 Greenlands (Gordon Head). This is a "not to be missed" sale with plenty of unusual perennials, ferns, and shrubs including many Hydrangeas, all at affordable prices. Due to a massive renovation of the back garden, there are many new offerings. Come and enjoy the garden and find some new treasures.
- **Plant-a-holics Sale at it's new venue, Sun 19 May 10 - 2 pm**
Robin Denning's Brentwood Bay Nursery, 1395 Benvenuto Ave. Attention all you plant geeks!! Pacific Coast Irises, woodlanders, ferns, succulents, geraniums, hardy fuchsias, roses. Lots of parking, cheques or cash only please
- **72nd Annual Mill Bay Garden Club's Annual Flower and Garden Show**
Cobble Hill Hall, 3550 Watson Ave., Cobble Hill, BC. 9am-2pm, Saturday, May 25, 2019.
Do you love your garden but are puzzled by its problems? Bring your garden problems to the master gardeners. Buy the newest and most attractive plants and flowers in the outside vendor area. Enjoy a yummy strawberry tea. As always there are bargains galore at the Mill Bay Garden Club's huge plant stall. For more information, a brochure or entry forms e-mail millbaygardenshow@gmail.com or go to www.millbaygardenclub.
- **Denman Island Home and Garden Tour, 15-16 June**
See notice at end of newsletter.

MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB MEETING AGENDA

7:00 pm Tuesday 26 March 2019 at

Mill Bay Community Centre

1. Call to Order

2. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes: 26 Feb. 2019

moved Norm, seconded Ajay Oppelaar

3. President's Report: Donna Kaiser

- Thank you to Elaine and Barb for running the plant sale at the Flower and Garden show for, well, forever! This will be their last year hosting and they would like 2 new people to take it on. You can train with them this year.
- BC Council of Garden Clubs meeting is coming up. Would someone like to attend?

4. Vice President's Report: Bernie Juurlink

Bernie would like some suggestions from the membership about speakers for next year.

5. Treasurer's Report: Marie Cooke

There is \$2279 in our chequeing account and \$1500 in the bursary account.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Membership: JoAnn Mulhern

We have 2 new members.

b. Website: Gord Hamilton

Deb Monkman has shared her wonderful flower images with us on the website. If anyone else has pictures please link them to our site.

c. Facebook: Pauline Dueck

Please like us on facebook as we approach the flower and garden show.

d. Plant sales: Monica Morgan

Lots of great stuff to buy! Please keep the goodies coming in!

e. Flower & Garden Show: Al Mickalishen sign-up sheet was circulated and there are lots of fun jobs to fill. We needed and got judge assistants for the 7 pm judging. Please keep the silent auction donations coming! Sign person is needed to organize putting up and taking down signs.

f. Library & Bursary: Wendy Mikalishen

Judging standards book is available and the new Birds and Blooms magazine is in.

g. Kitchen: Pat Spezowka

Pat will be completing this job in June and would like someone as a trainee to help and then take over her job.

h. Past President (Acting): Ajay Oppelaar

Ajay was asked if Sambucus (elderberry) is deer proof. It is deer resistant as tagged but the damned deer are not reading the tags!

Members Forum

Dot needs help and advice maintaining her pond. Anyone available?

Elaine asked for volunteers to help run (and take over) the plant sale. She mentioned that there are 3 plant sales coming up 1. Heather sale, 2 Charity plant sale April 13 9 am -2pm 3 Cairnsmore April 20,

7. Brag Table: Barb Kohlman

8. Guest speaker Phil Newton, Victoria Dahlia Society, dahlia super expert

13. Adjournment: 9:00p

Denman Island Home and Garden Tour June 15-16, 2019

Tickets are now on sale for this enchanting Tour, deemed by the Globe & Mail "one of Canada's top six horticultural events." Every two years this idyllic island throws open its garden gates, inviting the public for a rare up-close look at the creativity, skill and passion Denman residents pour into their properties.

The Denman Conservancy has declared 2019 to be The Year of the Wetland, and many of our extraordinary properties offer natural and man-made water features, creating complex, lively ecosystems. The famous Des Kennedy Garden is a major attraction again this year, and other highlights include an organic vineyard (with tasting room), a home build from creatively recycled components, a modern homestead and market garden, a couple of oceanfront west-coast architectural delights, and an island-style chocolate factory. Bloom lovers will not be disappointed, either - roses, lilies, and a whole host of other blossoms will be found in abundance.

This weekend event provides an unforgettable experience for lovers of gardens, homes and rural charm. Many people return year after year, and are never disappointed. Join them! Come for a day trip, or book into a cozy B&B and stay for the weekend.

Early bird tickets are \$18, and can be purchased online at <http://www.denman-conservancy.org/home-and-garden-tour>.



DENMAN
CONSERVANCY
ASSOCIATION

DENMAN ISLAND
HOME & GARDEN
TOUR

JUNE 15-16
9:30am-5 pm

TICKETS \$18 (\$20 AFTER MAY 15)
WWW.DENMAN-CONSERVANCY.ORG