



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, November 26th, 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!



November Speaker:

Bill Jones

Edible Wild Mushrooms

See page 3 for details

November Brag Table Theme:

Fall and Winter Berries

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!#



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Meeting Helpers:

Break Time Treats: Pip Woodcock, Carolyn Morris, Madelaine Dovaire, Liz Lindquist, Celine Eggleston, Mary-Ellen Dueling

Kitchen Helpers: Dinah Clark, Glenda Wilkinson, Mary-Ellen Dueling

Set-up/clean up*: Elaine Scott, Marianna and Aaron Padolsky

** please arrive by 6:30.*

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



MBGC Christmas Potluck!

Tuesday December 3rd, 2019

This year's Christmas Potluck Dinner will be held on December 3rd at the Mill Bay Community League Hall. Doors open at 5:30 to allow time to set up your table and potluck item. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm. Bring your family, all are welcome!

Details:

- Turkey, Ham (with mustard mousse!), Punch, Coffee, Tea — all provided courtesy of MBGC.
- Members provide potluck dishes: appies, salads, veggies, desserts, etc. (Please bring a generous serving of your potluck dish AND A SERVING SPOON so that all can enjoy a taste!)
- **Bring your own plates, cups, cutlery, napkins — (No alcohol please)**
- **We encourage you to bring cash for the food bank — donation boxes will be provided near the Hall entrance. (Cash works best for the food bank.)**

Fun Stuff:

- Table Centrepiece — theme is *"Winter Beautiful"*. Create an arrangement for your table (*candles cannot be lit*). Win one of 3 prizes!
- Raffle Prize — receive a FREE raffle ticket upon arrival. Prize number to be drawn sometime during the evening.
- Gift Exchange — place an anonymous gift (\$10 limit on value) under the tree, get your number and be eligible to receive a gift.
- Carol Singing — there will be a sing-a-long, led by some lovely voices of club members; song sheets available for all to join in. And there is a piano in the Hall if anyone would like to accompany the singers.... other instruments are also welcome!



President's Report

Donna Kaiser

What a wonderful Fall we have had with the weather cooperating and giving us a time to tidy our gardens and mulch in mostly dry weather. No need to feel guilty now when snuggling up by the fire and reading a book!

We have had a great response to our membership payment drive this year, but for those of you who still have not paid, please do so before January 28, 2020.

December 3rd will be our Christmas Potluck. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend, but I am sure all will have as

much fun as last year. All necessary information about this year's event can be found in this newsletter.

I would like to take the time to thank everyone that came out recently to help clean the Memorial Garden. Plans are underway for getting an application of mulch to finish the job off nicely.

See you all at the Club meeting on November 26.

Sincerely,

Donna

Be Careful Out There!

Even the most experienced gardeners can make the odd mistake. At worst, it can be fatal (tonight's speaker will help!). At other times it can just be inconvenient. A garden club member was fortunate last month, despite spending a day or two in Intensive Care. Just never take anything for granted. Appended to the end of this newsletter is a handout from the BC Government on **poison hemlock**, one particular culprit, which is not too difficult to be mistaken for much more benign edibles.

"Sunshine Mary"

Our esteemed Life Member Mary Gale, has for 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.



October's Speaker:

Bill Jones on Edible Wild Mushrooms

Our next speaker (November 26) is Bill Jones, a chef and author based on Deerholme Farm in the Cowichan Valley. He is a French-trained chef, author of 12 cookbooks, winner of 4 world cookbook awards and busy food consultant and community builder. Bill's latest book is the Deerholme Vegetable Cookbook (Touchwood Editions, 2015). Bill is a supporter of local food communities, a founding member of FarmFolk/CityFolk, SlowFood Vancouver Island and was a key organizer of the BC Canadian Chefs Congress.

Abstract:

We live in a wonderful part of the planet for wild mushrooms. The area is home to many edible fungi a number of poisonous varieties - it's always useful to know the difference between the two.

Mushroom are integral to the local ecosystem and can play a part in the health (positively and negatively) of plants in the garden.

Committee Reports

Membership

Thanks to the many returning members who have given their \$10 fee to Marie. We currently have a total of 110 new, renewed and lifetime members.

If you plan to attend some of this year's meetings, but haven't yet renewed, please do so at our November 26th meeting. It promises to be excellent with Bill Jones speaking about mushrooms.

JoAnn Mulhern

Notes from the Library

As an extra special holiday season gift from the library, books can be kept out until the end of January 2020! Imagine! Two months of reading pleasure while we have long, dark evenings and can cosy up by the fire. Perfect!

*Your bundled up and cosy librarian,
Janice Rose*

Committee Reports (cont)

Plant Sales

How about SOCK SALES?

Yes, at our next garden club meeting we will have opportunity for you to do some local X-mas shopping. Those lovely alpacas that have provided us with great garden gold for several years have also produced lovely warm wool for alpaca socks. We will have several options of mens, ladies, lighter & heavier weight. They sell around \$35.(We can take cheques.) These moneys will go the Robinsons on Aros road, who generously donate the alpaca poo to the club monthly. They also provide eggs, of which we will also bring a few dozen. Let's support these folks & keep you & yours toes warm this winter. Look forward to more alpaca gold after the new Year!

Also; we hope to have lots of natural "garland" type greenery for our table to build your swags & wreaths. Holly, red willow, cedar etc. Anything you think would be appreciated by club members, please bring along.

Look forward to seeing you nov 26. And THANK YOU to all that have donated to the plant sales table thus far:)

Your friendly plant sales team,

Monika Morgan & Sharon Martin



From the Raffle Table

Thank you to all the members who donated items to the raffle table at our monthly meeting last year. We encourage more donations this year. Please feel free to bring in new, or like new items. They don't have to be garden themed, but that is always a bonus. If you are going to donate baking (we love that!), please contact Katherine or Stephanie in advance, so we can coordinate the offerings.

Thank you and see you at the next meeting.

Katherine and Stephanie

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*



Gardening Tips for November 2019 by Barb Kohlman

- You should be checking plants to see how the water situation is. The ground is probably dry in most places and you should consider watering your plants, especially if you have put in newly planted specimens for this fall. Our weather has been exceptionally dry for October /November.
- Time is “ripe” to plan next years’ veggie garden space----and to cover the soil in your beds where nothing is growing.
- Can still plant container-grown trees and shrubs.
- Roses deadheaded and old leaves raked up and destroyed to help prevent spread of disease.
- Bring in any tender plants in pots if not done already. Store in a cool place and check occasionally over the winter to keep slightly moist. Datura/ Brugmansia would be a good example of these plants.
- Clean your garden tools and put them away if you are not “winter” gardening.
- Now all your clean-up chores are done, sit back with a cup of hot chocolate and catch up on that stack of garden magazines, and plan great choices for the bare spots for planting next spring.



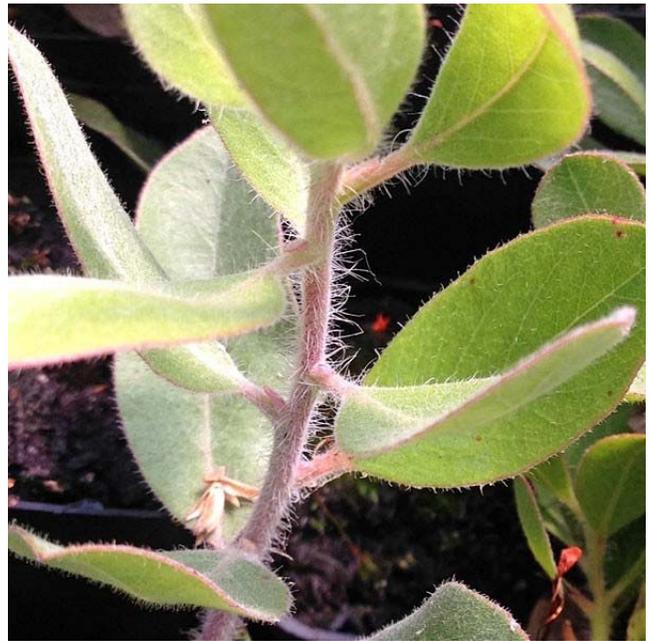
Cheers — barb k



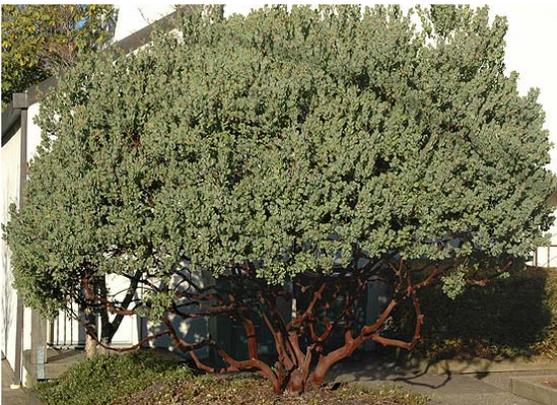
The Heather Family Party Talk by Fran Benton

I bet a lot of people are big fans of the heather family and don't even know it. And what fodder for the party season to be able to chat aimlessly about the Ericaceae. "I say my good man, what is your opinion of Calluna vs. Erica?" What an excellent party conversation starter. Well – you folks who guffaw at that are in for a shock. There is a group of people in Mill Bay who would dive right into that conversation. Did you know we have a HEATHER SOCIETY in Cobble Hill/ Mill Bay? Well we do and if you are a fan, this is a very cool group to join. You would learn such important things as this- the heather family includes our wonderful rhododendrons, arbutus, cranberry, blueberry, azalea, Kinnikinnick, Salal, and of course Heather! There are many more members of this family that you know and love.

My personal favourite is a nice fat shrub called Hairy Manzanita. When I studied botany at UVic I had an instructor that looked a bit like a bear. His nickname was Hairy Manzanita because, no lie, he looked exactly like that shrub. He had the same girth and same height. He even was a bit itchy which matched the scratchiness of that shrub. He rarely even wore a jacket in winter, just a ratty old tee shirt! No one would have dared call him that to his face. I think he retired to roam the scrublands of coastal Oregon.



Ah sorry, back to the Ericaceae. How do botanists group and identify plants? By their naughty bits, by which I mean their flowers. You will remember those lovely urn shaped flowers that your Arbutus happily dumps all over your lawn in spring. They are the most perfect urn shape. Rhododendrons and Azaleas have bell shaped individual flowers in clusters. While checking my information for accuracy I



came across this characteristic of rhododendrons. "Rhododendrons are characterized by inflorescences with scarious perulae, fruit with a septicidal capsule, an ovary that is superior (or nearly so), stamens that have no appendages, and agglutinate pollen." Now try using that nugget of information at your next party!

Mill Bay Garden Club meets at the Mill Bay Hall
Every 4th Tuesday at 6:45. And there are cookies!!!

Minutes

MBGC General Mtg.

Oct. 23, 2019

Call to order:

7:02pm (*unfortunately the President lost control of the meeting and we started 2 minutes late; she promises to do better next time*)

Reports

President

- Kitchen duties
 - Kate is new to the club, misses discussion while in the kitchen (*she will come to realize that the kitchen is a great refuge from the nonsense*)
 - perhaps others could help her get the kitchen squared away before the night's speaker starts
- Memorial Garden cleanup
 - need volunteers for Oct. 26 between 2:00 and 4:00pm
 - Xmas Party
 - Dec. 3 at the Hall
 - setup at 5:30

VP

- Speaker will be Brandy Gallagher from O.U.R. EcoVillage

Treasurer

- \$3,021 in bank
- \$500 in bursary fund

Secretary

- No report (*lazy &%\$#*)

Membership

- 89 people have renewed (*non people - ~0*)
- 5 new members this evening (

Newsletter

- Was sent out on Wednesday last

Website

- No report (*unlike the Secretary this person actually works, the report was also eloquently presented*)

Facebook

- nothing new
- Request for input

Raffle

- Reports on prizes (*clearly rigged – I have it on good authority that the Secretary never wins*)

Plant Sale

- Lots of plants this night
 - kiwis, quince, walking onions (*get them before they get out the door*)

Library

- Some good new books
 - eg “Place in the Rain” (*sounds like a dissertation on Coastal BC*)
- a couple of books overdue – naughty

Past President’s

- Passed

Brag Table

- Wonderful selection
- Barb did a marvellous job once again – *does she ever tire of being marvellous?*

Speaker

- Brandy Gallagher
 - interesting, well presented talk about the O.U.R. Eco Village and the incredible range of sustainable things they do

Adjourn

- Must have been at some appropriate time as no complaints were heard (*of course, we simply didn’t listen*)