



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, January 28th, 2020**

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:

Paul Bulk

Integrated Pest Management

See page 3 for details

January Brag Table Theme:

Struggling to Emerge

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!

The Club is looking for

***Kitchen/Meeting Helper
Coordinator***

See the President's Letter on page 2 for details.

Meeting Helpers:

Break Time Treats: Angie Stanta, Heather Jenkins, Judy Raimondo, Laura Ferreira, Sally Emoly

Kitchen Helpers: Angie Stanta, Judy Raimondo, Linda Joe

Set-up/clean up*: Mary and Eoin Morrison

- *please arrive by 6:30.*

Please email the President (see sidebar on page 3) if you cannot make the meeting.



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

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President's Report

Donna Kaiser

Unlike last year's colour poking through the underbrush, this year I'm looking at two feet of snow! Time for seed catalogues and planning.... I've started chitting seed potatoes with hopes of getting them into their beds by early March.

Again, we are on the lookout for a kitchen coordinator since Kate Segall has had to step down for medical reasons. We wish her the very best and also thank her for the great job she did while coordinator. Kate introduced a helpful set-up plan that allows for everyone to attend the meeting and not miss out on information and speakers. If you are interested in taking over the

coordinator's position, please let me know.

We have a second request as well: someone to handle publicity and promotion for the Flower and Garden Show. There is a prepared manual to follow, and we are looking for someone to put it to action.

Enjoy the snow and the bright crisp cold for soon enough we will be complaining about heat and weeds.

See you at the general meeting on January 28.

Cheers,

Donna



“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.



January's Speaker:

Paul Bulk on Integrated Pest Management: Strategies from Eurosa Farms

Paul Bulk is the Head Grower at Eurosa Farms, a commercial flower greenhouse.

Abstract:

Eurosa Farms supplies the local market with cut flowers. It has been using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in their 4.5 acre cut flower operation for over 20 years. During that time, Eurosa Farms has used and implemented many techniques and controls. Although there are many differences between a garden and greenhouse, many of these strategies can be used in both settings. Paul will also be available to answer any questions about the farm or about flower cultivation in general.

Committee Reports

Notes from the Library

Spring is right around the corner and with that in mind we have two new pruning books to help MBGC members dream of warmer days. "How to Prune Trees and Shrubs" by Barbara Ellis is compact with easy to understand techniques for timely trimming. Steve Bradley's "Pruning Simplified" will be an excellent reference book for even our most seasoned gardeners.

Another excellent reference book on Permaculture is another new addition. Practical Permaculture by Jesse Bloom and Dave Boehnlein covers basic permaculture principles including design and information on plants, water, waste, energy, structures, etc. This should be a super popular book so come early to check it out.

Your happy librarian,

Janice Rose

Committee Reports (cont)

Plant Sales

Because our Plants are all struggling to emerge, our Plant Sales table will be DORMANT for this month.

We look forward to a few pop ups (plants not weeds) to show up on the table for the February. meeting. We will have lots of alpaca gold available for February. If you want to make sure you get your bucket you can email me or call. Sometimes I even deliver—I only like to bring a few to the hall.

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

From the Raffle Table

Welcome back to our regular meetings; don't forget your change for the raffle table! Also, please consider donating or regifting any Christmas items you may have received that are superfluous to requirements. The Raffle table is always looking for garden related items in good condition.

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*



Party Pics!

Gardening Tips for January 2020 by Barb Kohlman

Still snow as I am compiling this:

So, when you are able, go out and check for broken branches and trim them off neatly to a point of origin (e.g. back to the branch where they were joined).



My evergreen ferns are all flattened and so near the middle of February I will trim them all back so that I can see the new fronds forming and then unfurling. The sword ferns are particularly attractive.

Before the snow my hellebores were in bud and starting to look interesting. The snow did not hurt them and even my delicate yellow one (in a pot) is flowering. If you have not cut off the old leaves this is a good time to do so in anticipation of the fresh new foliage which will soon develop. You should check out some of the new cultivars. H. 'Ice and Roses' is a beauty. And I left behind (in my old garden) H. 'Apricot Blush'. I will replace it for this garden.

My pop weeds are going strong so a good idea to keep on top of these. They go to seed very quickly. *Cardamine hirsutum*

TOMATO CAGE "MARKS THE SPOT":

When sowing seeds directly into the garden use a tomato cage or a wire mesh basket upside down to mark the spot till seeds mature, therefore avoiding planting on top accidentally. I use the mesh hanging baskets to keep rabbits from chewing on my new young plants too.

Thought I left the pesky rabbits behind, but I seem to have "teleported" one to this new garden and he/she has found my new crocuses, so off to buy some new mesh baskets.

Cheers — barb k



Organizing your Vegetable Buddies by Fran Benton

This time of year I am always busy planning my spring garden. What veggies will I plant, where will I plant them? Most importantly I consult my “never grow this again!” list. These are the plants that grew too much and produced nothing (loofah squash) or the ones that came up as a sickly miserable seedling and despite your tender care, died. These, of course, are the most expensive seeds in the catalogue. They are the ones that give you a very specific thrill at this time of year when you are planning and scheming.

This year I am going to redo the arrangement of veggies in the raised beds and do it right this time. But what should it be – rows, blocks, mixed with flowers? Some things have to be in certain patterns like corn. Corn is wind pollinated and needs to be in a block. Lettuce can go anywhere just remember where you planted it! Speaking of lettuce you could start some inside right now under a light and feast on it before you even get the other seeds in the ground. Try continuously planting lettuce for a harvest of tasty small plants. Perhaps you might like to grow some micro greens. This is sort of like eating your seedlings only way more fun!



Every year I buy some unreasonable seeds. Yes, something silly just for the fun of it! So I am planting cotton. Huh? Cotton as in cotton fibre? Yes! Cotton is a member of the mallow family and has the scientific generic name of Gossypium. Sounds like an over sharing neighbour! This plant is a handsome shrub and produces bolls that are filled with cotton fibre. It's a bit of a challenge in our climate to get the cotton plant to produce full bolls but I have done it before and it was fun. They do take some space and need lots of water. I am going to try them in containers and maybe even overwinter them in the garage but we'll see how that goes! In the meantime we can muse over those seed catalogues or take a trip to the garden centre for more ideas. Happy scheming!

Christmas Potluck News

Very good news from the Christmas Potluck!

This year's food bank donations added up to \$522! This is astounding—last year we raised \$250, so this is more than double!

Thanks to everyone who contributed! No midnight visits from the Ghosts of Christmas for you!



Upcoming Events

- **Seedy Saturdays!**
 - Qualicum Beach: 1 February, 10am - 3:30pm, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones St, Qualicum Beach. Visit www.qbseedysaturday.ca for details.
 - Victoria: 15 February, 10 am - 4pm, Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas St. Presented by James Bay Market Society. Visit jamesbaymarket.com/SeedySaturday/ for details.
 - Sooke: 29 February, 10am - 3pm, Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Rd, opposite the Legion on Eustace Rd. Presented by Sooke Region Food CHI Society. Visit sookefoodchi.ca/events/seedysaturday/ for more.
 - Cobble Hill 20th Annual Seedy Saturday: March 14, 9am - 2pm, Cobble Hill Hall, Watson Ave, Cobble Hill.
See <https://cobblehillseedysaturday.weebly.com/seedy-saturday-2020.html> for details

Positions Vacant at Dinter Nursery!

The Garden Club Newsletter does not usually run ads , but this one demands an exception... sounds like the ideal job for a club member!

Dinter Nursery is a customer orientated, family owned garden centre and nursery celebrating over 45 years of supplying gardeners with quality plants and superior customer service. We are looking to add experienced gardeners and horticulturalists who equally have a passion for plants and people to our customer service team.

Sales/Plant Care Staff - Job responsibilities:

- Assisting customers make plant selections, as well as helping customers find plants and products
- Assist customers with their plant identification and plant health questions
- Pruning, weeding, watering and deadheading plant material
- Sweeping and organizing sales areas to keep it orderly and shoppable for customers

Key Skills and Requirements:

- This position is a front-line position and involves working with the public on a daily basis. A positive attitude is a must, and an engaging, friendly manner is an asset
- Being passionate about growing your plant knowledge is a must
- Ability to identify ornamental and edible garden plants is an asset
- Ability to identify insect, pest and diseases is an asset
- Computer skills and experience with a point-of-sale system is an asset
- Able to lift 20 kg and work in all weather conditions

Job Type:

- Full-time, seasonal or part-time seasonal

To apply please email cover letter and resume to info@dinternursery.ca