



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting (ZOOM):

Date: **Tues, November 10, 2020**

Time: 7pm

Place: Your desk or a comfy armchair
in your home

Activities:

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



November Speaker:

Laura Boyd-Clowes

**Gardening with the
Cowichan Green Community**

See page 3 for details

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the second edition of the revived Mill Bay Garden Club Newsletter. In case you are sorting and binding your collection, please note that there was no October issue.

The newsletter is still rough around the edges because many regular features that are not relevant at this time are leaving blank spaces!



“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.

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President's Report

Bernie Juurlink

On October 13 we held the first Zoom meeting with a speaker. It was an unusual meeting in that there was widespread power outage, including the home of our Zoom Master, Gord Hamilton. Gillian Keir valiantly stepped in and the meeting went smoothly. Our speaker Arzeena Hamir was excellent and spoke on natural ways to get rid of garden pests. The talk was taped and the video is available to our Garden Club members. The talk was followed by the Club's business meeting. We will have another Zoom meeting on November 10 at 7:00 p.m. with the speaker being Laura Boyd-Clowes. Details of the talk is given in Gillian Keir's report on page 3.

On October 27 we held our first in-person meeting at the Mill Bay Community League Hall. This went extremely well. Everyone was masked, we had a number of hand sanitization stations and kept track of who attended and their contact information. We followed all the Covid-19 regulations. Most of the business was carried on outdoors since the Kerry Park Recreation Centre will not allow more than a maximum of 25 people in the Hall. Thirty-two members renewed their membership and as of October 27 we have had 62 members renew their membership. In addition, plants were sold and surplus library books sold.

The October 27 event was followed by the Club's Executive meeting. Amongst the items discussed at the meeting was what to do for the November 24th in-person meeting. Since darkness arrives sooner in November than October we decided to hold the event from 3:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m. It will be done mostly outdoors. If it rains we will arrange to have the Club tent(s) in place. We thought we would aim for a combined November/December event. Our normal December event is a Christmas dinner but with Covid-19 this cannot happen. We will have plant sales, hopefully a raffle, perhaps a sale of Christmas-related items, as well as a collection of monies for the CMS Foodbank. If anyone has any idea of what else we could do at this in-person outdoor event please let me know and I will discuss this with the Executive.

In the new year we will continue with our meetings with a speaker over Zoom. But we are not sure what to do with the in-person meetings for the winter months. It will likely be too cold to have events outdoors and at the moment we are limited to having only 25 people inside the Hall. If anyone has suggestions please forward them to me and I will bring them up for discussion with the Executive.

As mentioned earlier, although we are not holding the normal meetings, the Club still has activities and such activities have expenses such as:

1. Membership fees for the BC Council of Garden Clubs - the Council also provides us insurance which is required for events that we organize.
2. We are having short monthly meetings at the Hall where there will be access to our library and where we will have plant sales. We need to pay for Hall rental. Fees also enable us to buy new books for our library.
3. The Zoom license costs money. Without a licence our Zoom meetings are limited to 45 minutes.
4. We maintain a website and this has some costs.
5. We provide outside speakers with an honorarium of \$100. This would not be possible without Club membership fees. The previous speaker's Zoom talk has been provided to all club members

so even if you did not attend the Zoom meeting, the talk is still available.

6. Historically the Club has given donations to local charities. The Club fees is one source of such monies.
7. We also have a bursary for a student taking courses in areas of the Club's interest such as horticulture and environmental sciences.

For Club members to get a better understanding of the finances of the Club, Gord Hamilton, in his report, is providing the financial statement of the Club for the past year, i.e., from July 2019 to June 2020 (see page 5).

Bernie

November's Speaker (Tuesday, November 10):

Laura Boyd-Clowes, via Zoom, on

Collaborative Gardening with the Cowichan Green Community

Bio: Laura Boyd-Clowes is a farmer, landscaper and plant freak. She holds an MSc in Ethnobotany. When not in her own greenhouse, she works at Cowichan Green Community (CGC) as supervisor for the community gardens at Kinsmen Park in Downtown Duncan, and KinPark Youth Urban Farm, also in the same park. This is a public park that CGC leases from North Cowichan for the purposes of food production, community engagement, and education. The community gardens consist of wooden raised beds, rentals of which are in constant demand by locals, many of whom do not have access to backyards in which to garden. The urban farm project is a youth-run 'Permaculture'-style market garden with an emphasis on hands-on training and empowering young people to grow their own food. Laura will be sharing some of the history of this unique space, and will dive into the nuts and bolts of collaborative gardening, growing food with students, and community-led food production in public space.

How to ZOOM by Gord Hamilton

The next general meeting will be a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Zoom meetings have one or more hosts who schedule and control the meeting and, in our case, up to 100 allowed participants. While I will be the host, the meeting will still be run by our president, Bernie.

For those not familiar with Zoom here are a few things to know.

You will receive an invitation via email a few days before the meeting. There will be a link that you can click on that will take you to the Zoom app. You do not need a Zoom account to participate in meetings. Make a note of the meeting ID number in case you need it, should you not already have a Zoom account.

In the email invitation, click on the link below the Join Zoom Meeting line to go to the Zoom website and join the meeting. If you have never used Zoom before it will automatically download a small program that needs to be installed on your machine. Once it is downloaded, run the program to install it. When it has finished installing, Zoom will automatically take you to the meeting and place you in the Waiting Room. I will then let you in to the meeting.

At some point there will be a window with your participant name. Please ensure that you fill in both the first and last name as this will be your displayed name. When prompted, be sure to join the meeting by clicking "Join with Computer Audio". That way, you will hear the participants even if your own device does not have a microphone. If your device has a camera and you wish to join the meeting with video, click the camera icon located in the lower left side of the screen.

If you want further information about joining a Zoom meeting please copy and paste the following link into your browser: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193>

Should you lose the email invitation you can join the meeting simply by going to zoom.us/join and entering the meeting number mentioned above.

Hopefully we'll see most of you on November 10th.

Mill Bay Garden Club
Financial Statement
July 2019 - June 2020

		<u>Chequing Acct</u>	<u>Bursary GIC</u>
Opening Balance July 1, 2019		2,360.79	1,000.00
Revenue			
Membership Dues	1,340.00		
Kitchen	290.28		
Raffle	303.15		
Plant Sales	1,532.00		
Interest	1.64		
Name Tags	37.00		
Total Revenue	<u>3,504.07</u>		
Expenses			
Rent	406.00		
Speakers	600.00		
Library	104.85		
Insurance	172.20		
Kitchen	26.02		
Annual General Meeting	30.63		
Raffle	48.95		
Christmas Party	119.20		
Web Site			
Name Tags	52.50		
Donations	2,750.00		
Seedy Saturday Rental			
Total Expenses	<u>4,310.35</u>		
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(806.28)</u>	(806.28)	
Closing Balance June 30, 2020		1,554.51	1,000.00

Committee Reports

Notes from the Library

It was lovely to see so many garden club members attend our October outdoor meeting. I would like to request that all borrowed library books be returned at or before the November meeting. If anyone is feeling uncomfortable about attending the hall in November I am very happy to pick up your books.

We have an astonishing collection of the very best gardening publications. I am happy to find books on your behalf to help members read their way through the COVID-19 winter!

I also wish to give a huge shout out to Deb Monkman who has stepped up to help sell older gardening books for us. We made \$36 at the October meeting which will help maintain a current collection of relevant publications.

*Your friendly librarian,
Janice Rose*

Mill Bay Garden Club 2020 \$500 Bursary

On October 8, 2020 the Mill Bay Garden Club \$500 Bursary was presented to Taryn Neligan, a 2020 graduating student from Frances Kelsey Secondary School. Taryn has started her post secondary education at Uvic. She plans to major in Geography and Earth and Ocean Sciences.

The socially distanced presentation took place in Janice Rose's garden (see photo next page). I am very pleased to announce that the Bursary Committee made an excellent choice. Taryn is well spoken, enthusiastic and has a love of the environment. We are very lucky to have such a promising and dedicated young person living in our community.

Our bursary committee members include: Janice Rose, Monika Morgan, Heather Jenkins, Ann Baty, Mary Gale and Al Mikalishen.

Janice

Plant Sales

We had a good turn out at our first in person plant sale last week. Thank for the contributions & the buyers. We raised \$180 in that short time. Just a reminder that the funds we raise at plant sales help our contributions for charitable donations in the community.

our next gathering end of November we usually welcome festive branches ie; holly or anything that folks might appreciate to make holiday crafts or wreaths. So if you have something to donate like this, or anything else plant wise, hope to see you then. We plan to have the sales outside the hall again. If weather doesn't look favorable, we will probably put up a big tent. So, don't miss out. Come & enjoy the fun & safe gathering.

Take care

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



Janice Rose and Shadow presenting Taryn Neligan with the MBGC's 2020 Bursary

Membership

Thank you to all of our members who have signed up again for 2020-2021.

While e-transfers work great, you will also be able to manually sign up again at our next meeting on November 24.

Welcome back to the club to Carol Minchen and Candice Feeney. We are glad to have you back again. Also welcome to a brand new member Nicola Cusi. I am sure you will enjoy being a part of the garden club.

Pat S



Questions and Answers

Elaine Scott and Bill Herring

Question. I am having trouble getting my Agapanthus to bloom. Can you give me some ideas on what I can do to rectify this problem.

Answer. There may be several reasons and here are some ideas for you.

1. You may be just too anxious as they may not bloom for at least the first couple of years.
2. Do not divide until the plants outgrows its boundaries or becomes crowded in its pot. In general an agapanthus should not be divided for at least five year. The bottom line is that it is happy when its roots are somewhat crowded.
3. As Barb mentioned at the September 28 Zoom meeting, it does need lots of sun. In general you need to make sure that it is getting at least six hours of sun a day.
4. As Pip mentioned at the same meeting, Agapanthus is a robust plant that does not need a lot of water after the first growing season. However, if we are going through a really hot dry season and if you test the soil and it is dry for at least three inches, you should give it a deep watering.
5. A non-blooming Agapanthus may need fertilizer but not too much. The articles I read suggest that you fertilize twice monthly during the spring time using a water-soluble fertilizer and then cut back to once monthly when the plant begins to bloom.

So I do hope that this helps. After doing the research for you I have decided to dig up the Agapanthus that Barb bought for me (because it was named Elaine) and put it on in a pot on the deck in the full sun and where the deer cannot eat the blooms. Elaine

Question (submitted by Maria Eli Santos and answer provided by Bill Herring)

I attended a seminar at Dinters in February, 2018 on grafting. During that seminar I grafted an Ambrosia apple tree onto M9 stock. The tree was planted in about April 2018 and is now eight feet tall. It has not been pruned in any specific way. We will be moving soon and I would like to take the tree with me. How should I best handle that?

Answer First of all congratulations Maria Eli on your grafting success as not many gardeners can say that they have grafted a fruit tree. What I would do is reduce the leader now by 1/3 for the following reasons:

To encourage side branches. The M9 root stock tends to be shallow rooted. In order to prevent root rock it is important that the tree not get too tall. For this reason I would also prune the tree in mid to the end of July each year. Summer pruning involves pruning the new growth. Look at the year's growth and reduce the growth to 2-3 leaves, cutting at an outward facing leaf. Spurs will form in the leaf axils that are left. The tree is pushing up growth hormones at this time of the year which assists the development of these fruiting spurs. Note that it is not easy to prune old trees that have not been pruned for years.

I would wait until the leaves have fallen before lifting the tree.

All the best for a successful transplant and many years enjoying the delicious fruits of your labours.

Mill Bay Garden Club: General Meeting

22 September 2020

7:00 PM, by Zoom

Meeting Convenor: Gord Hamilton

Introduction: Bernie Juurlink

This is a meeting with an informal Zoom context but we need to formalize the MBGC Executive for the new year at a General Meeting.

Motion: Cliff Stainsby

States that since we have a quorum for a General Meeting, he moves that we appoint our new Executive from those who volunteered for the positions.

Seconded: Janice Rose

CS: asks for additional nominations; none forthcoming, so closes nominations and asks for objections. The names of new Executive read to attending members and no objections were raised.

Volunteers for the new Executive:

President: Bernie Juurlink

Past President: Donna Kaiser

Vice President: Gillian Keir

Treasurer: Gord Hamilton

Secretary: Dorothy Kennedy

Membership: Pat Spezowka

Raffle: Stephanie Taylor

Bursary: Ann Baty

Memorial Garden: Katherine Miller

David Byrnes: Newsletter

Facebook: Pauline Dueck

Historian/Sunshine: Mary Gale

Website: Gord Hamilton

Plant Sales: Monika Morgan

Library: Janice Rose

Kitchen: Melanie Fiander

Al Mikalishen: asks if we need to vote on motion.

CS: In this Zoom format, we ask for objections instead of affirmative voting by raised hands. Thus, motion passed, as no objections.

New Business:

Bernie Juurlink: The next meeting with the speaker announced in the *Club Newsletter* will take place by Zoom on 13 October 2020.

A copy of the Minutes for the last Garden Club meeting in February 2020 meeting could not be located, so the official minutes for this season will commence with this current meeting (and Minutes).

Questions from Members: Moderated by Gillian Keir

MBGC members have submitted questions and these will be answered by garden experts Barb Kohlman (BK), Elaine Scott (ES), Norman Redcliffe (NR), and Cliff Stainsby (CS).

Q. 1 Pauline Dueck asks if she should add compost to all the garden beds in the spring or fall or when, and if there is a recommendation for the type of compost to use?

A. Bark Kohlman: For ornamental beds, she recommends two inches of compost be added in the fall, after the soil has cooled, and then two inches in the spring once the soil has warmed. Leaf mulch can be added more thickly, but one must be careful not to smother the roots.

A. Elaine Scott: In raised vegetable beds, she recommends a thick layer, for example where beans and peas have been growing. These plants should be cut off at the ground surface level with the roots left in the ground to feed the soil. The *brassica* plants (e.g., cauliflower and broccoli), however, require crop rotation to avoid club root and therefore should be removed from the bed before covering the bed with a thick layer.

CS states that he adds manure in the fall and covers with maple leaves to reduce leaching. ES and BK confirm that attention must be paid to the potential loss of nutrients. Elaine states that adding two inches of compost in the fall “makes sense.”

BK suggests that a source of chicken manure can be found beside the Cowichan golf course; CS adds that cow manure can be used as well.

Q.2 Katherine Miller asks about when to prune lavender.

A. BK says to tidy up the blossoms now and then in the spring cut back some of this year’s growth, being careful not to cut down as far as the old wood. When the plants are old, ugly, and spindly, one should dig them up and toss them in the bin.

Q.3 Deb Monkman from Mill Bay has *Phormium* growing in pots and wants advice on how to protect them over the winter. Asks if anyone has used fleece blankets?

A. BK says that if they are in a pot the container must drain well. She suggests using Styrofoam or bubble wrap to provide some protection, especially around the edges. Importantly, they must be kept dry.

CS states that he uses layers of Remy cloth over a framework to add protection for plants in his unheated greenhouse.

Janice Rose: states that she puts her *Phormium* in her greenhouse with no wrapping, but notes that the plants must be kept dry, with watering occurring only once or twice through the winter and a fan circulating the air. She has hundreds of *Phormium*.

Donna Kaiser: the important thing is to keep them dry.

ES: two varieties that are known to her are *P. cookianum* and *P. sundowner*. The mountain flax is tough and the sundowner is hardy.

Q.4 Dahlia –can you leave them in the ground over the winter if growing on an east slope in Mill Bay, or dug up?

A. NR explains that dahlia plants come from a warm place and therefore should be dug up. If left in the ground, they become weak and put on a poor display, resulting in a “crap shoot” of specimens. He recommends digging up a clump of dahlias and dividing it each year. This way you get stronger plants and more of them.

Q.5 Lori Hamilton asks how to grow *Agapanthus*.

A. ES says that she has had success growing them in Mill Bay and having them survive the winter, but that the deer eat them. Elaine will do further research and provide Lori with the information. They grow like weed in New Zealand.

BK: *Agapanthus* need full sun all day long.

Pip Woodward: They like to be dry, so water them seldomly.

Additional Questions/ Comments

Elaine Scott: Reports that she has had an issue with pear scab. States that the trees require good air circulation, must be cleaned underneath of all leaves, etc., and can be sprayed with dormant oil in late fall, after the leaves drop, and again in the late winter (February or March).

Barb Kohlman: Notes that *Hosta* should be divided after the leaves die down, not in the spring. She recommends using a bread knife to divide the root into “hunks”. The bread knife is useful for dividing grasses, as well.

Q. Janice Rose asks if a rose in a pot should be planted now or if one should wait.

A. ES: plant your plants now just before the train starts so that they get watered and settled before winter. Use an organic fertilizer/compost and soak the plant in water before putting it in the hole.

Additional Remarks:

Bernie Juurlink: Reminds people to consult the club Newsletter for information on the 13 October 2020 Zoom meeting, and also for information on the “Open Community Hall” that will occur on the 4th Tuesday of October (and subsequent months) for the members’ use of the library and the chance to buy plants and raffle tickets.

Elaine Scott: The “Mixing it Up” Conference will be held via Zoom on 30 January 2021 and feature five experts speaking on highly informative topics that will be of interests to the members. She will post information on the Club’s Facebook page and in the newsletter.

“For the asking”: Gillian Keir has three packages of Gem jar lids, should anyone need some.

President Bernie Juurlink closes the General Meeting.

Prepared by: Dorothy Kennedy, 22 September 2020