



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting (ZOOM):

Date: **Tues, January 12, 2021**

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!**



January Speaker:

TBA

See page 3 for details



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Honest!

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“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.

President's Report

Bernie Juurlink

I hope that everyone will have a wonderful new year and that Covid-19 will soon be a passing memory. Weatherwise it has been a wonderful winter with just a brief period of snow. Many gardens still have plants in bloom and spring and, importantly, vaccines are just around the corner.

I thank Monika Morgan, Pat Spezowka, Pauline Dueck, Gillian Keir, Janice Rose and Sharon Arnold who contributed to the Christmas Swag Sale held December 3 to December 6 on Pat's deck. I also thank Eli Santos and Guy Lacasse for the kiwis they donated for this sale. The sale netted the Garden Club \$451 as well as \$235 that has been donated to the CMS Food Bank.

Although vaccinations are beginning to be underway Covid-19 infections are still rampant in BC and, indeed, across the country. The Executive met via Zoom on December 30 and came to the decision that no in-person meetings will be held in January and February. Hopefully in March we can begin to have some form of in-person meetings at the Hall, even if this be restricted to the outside as we did in October.

However, we will continue to have Zoom meetings with a Speaker during the early part of each month: for this month the Club Zoom meeting will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12.

It is still unclear if we will have some form of a Flower and Garden Show this spring. At the very least we are hoping to organize some sort of plant sale, possibly on March 23, 2021.

Bernie

January 12, 2021 - Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda

- 1) 7:00 p.m.: Speaker presentation chaired by Gill Keir.
- 2) 7:00 p.m.: Club Business
 - a) Any additions to the agenda?
 - b) Approval of the minutes of November 10, 2020 Club Zoom meeting
 - c) President's Report – Bernie Juurlink
 - d) Various Committee reports
 - e) Tips and Question Period with Barb Kohlman, Bill Herring and Elaine Scott.



January's Speakers:

Instead of having a presentation for the January meeting, three of our members, Bill Herring, Barb Kohlman and Elaine Scott, will take the floor to give tips and answer your gardening questions. While they will take live questions, they would like some questions submitted first. This will help them prepare and identify similar subjects. Please submit your questions to me and I will send them on to our Garden Experts!

Gill Keir



Membership Dues

Please remember to pay your \$10 membership dues if you have not already done so! Although the club is not holding in-person meetings due to the pandemic, expenses are still many, and membership fees cover a large portion of them. Ongoing expenses include club membership in the BC Council of Garden Clubs, speaker honorarium, the Zoom license, the web site, donations to local charities, and the bursary. Thanks for supporting the club!

How to ZOOM by Gord Hamilton

Here's a slightly massaged repeat of Gord Hamilton's article from the November 2020 newsletter, should you be new or have forgotten how to Zoom!

The next general meeting will once again 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 into 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.

Hopefully we'll see most of you on January 12th.

Committee Reports

Christmas Pop Up!



Art by Pat Spezowka.

Our little 'POP UP STORE' last month took in \$471. Along with the \$50 we took in in November for Alpaca gold that's a total of \$521. We hope to put these funds into some of our community charities. Not a big turn out of folks, but very generous ones. We still have 4 decorated stars & 1 swag available if you may still be interested. (\$20 for the swag, \$15 for the stars.) I would be happy to deliver. Still lots of kiwis available also. (generously donated by Guy Lacasse & Eli Santos.)

Collection for The FOOD BANK totalled \$215. We will deliver that to the Mill Bay food bank in the next few days.

A big thank you to Pat & Alex Spezowka for hosting this event on their balcony, & all the prep for it. Pat's creations were a big part of our income.

Hopefully next year we will not have to be quite so creative.

Thankyou. Take care. Stay safe

Touch base in January

Monika Morgan

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



Committee Reports (cont)

Plant Sales

Happy New Year all.

Dreaming about more gardening adventures soon... In the meantime.. I still have lots of kiwis tucked in the garage hoping to share with more of you. They are still ripening, but some will be ready to enjoy soon. Suggested donation: 10 for \$2. (for charitable donations.) I'm happy to deliver if that works best.

Not much gardening yet, but if you want to get ahead & are looking for alpaca gold, I still have a few buckets, & can get more. Just let me know.

We look forward to more plant sales in march, when we hope to have more favorable weather for another outside get together.

Sweet gardening dreams for now

Monika & Sharon

Your friendly plant sales team ✨

Treasurers Report

This has not been even close to a typical year for our club finances so I thought I should give you an update as to where we stand. For those that don't know, our fiscal year runs from July 2020 to June 2021. The forecast that you see appended to the end of the newsletter shows what we've received/spent for the first half of the year (pink), what we expect will happen in the second half (blue) and the total results for the year (green).

As you can see, the majority of our revenue is membership dues and plant/Christmas sales. While I can't say when we will physically be able to meet I have made the assumption that sometime in the spring we will get back to where we were in the fall with limited physical gatherings. I expect that the general meetings will be by Zoom for the rest of the club year so I have kept the future revenue projections low to be conservative. Hopefully we can exceed these amounts.

On the expense side we gave a \$500 bursary to the Frances Kelsey graduate who applied (and was approved) last spring. During the fall we also paid for 2 speakers and a Zoom subscription for this year. For the second half of the year the only expenses for which we are truly committed are the invoices for the web site and our liability insurance. I have also assumed that we will have 5 speakers on Zoom in the next few months. Unfortunately, without further revenue we will not be in a position to give out our annual donations as in previous years. We will, however, still have \$550 left in our bursary fund that will be available for this year's applicants. Barring any unforeseen expenses we should be able to start off the new club year with about the same amount of money in our accounts as in previous years.

Gord Hamilton

All About the Petunias! by Fran Benton

Every year I buy some Petunia seed but it's always the same damn thing- Double Grandiflora from T and T Seeds. This year I looked at their seed catalogue and realized there are so many types of Petunia. I really know nothing about them. So, in the interests of sharing garden info (and apologies to the experts that know all of this already) here is a guide to selecting Petunias.

There are 5 different groups of Petunias mainly based on flower size.

1. Multiflora petunias are the most durable and prolific. They have smaller, but more abundant flowers and are ideal for summer bedding or in a mixed border (because they are more tolerant to wet weather).
2. Grandiflora petunias have very large flowers and are best grown in containers or hanging baskets (because they are more susceptible to rain damage). These large petunias can rot in our moist spring weather.
3. Floribundas: Floribundas are intermediate between the grandiflora and the multiflora groups. They are free-flowering like the multiflora varieties and produce medium-sized blooms.
4. Millifloras: Milliflora petunias are much smaller than any other petunias on the market. The flowers are only 1 to 1½ inches wide, but they are prolific and last all season!
5. Spreading or Trailing Petunias: These are low growing but spread as much as 3 to 4 feet. They form a beautiful, colorful groundcover because the flowers form along the entire length of each stem. They can be used in window boxes or hanging baskets. As they sprout along their stems and spread out they are also known as Wave Petunias.

Petunia colours are pretty amazing! There is a complete colour palette including black and white. There are Petunias that look like night skies; there are petunias that have spots, stripes, ruffles and bands. If you have a good sense of colour you can make some amazing colour combinations.

Here at the south end of the island we grow Petunias with ease. If you want to create your own Petunia design maybe you want to start them from seed. The seeds of Petunia are basically dust. Growers tend to pellet the seed so you have a chance of seeing what you are sowing. I have a grow unit in my house so I start the seeds at the beginning of March. Be really careful not to overwater and don't cover the seeds with soil as they need light to germinate. I usually put a bit of recycled clear plastic film over the soil until I see a sprout. You will want to pay close attention to the seedlings as Petunia seed is expensive and losing a batch of seedlings could be pricey and annoying. Once your seedlings are growing on you can transplant them to larger pots. When the soil is warm, pop them in the garden. One new product from the plant breeders is the scented Petunias. What could be better pretty and smells great too! When you get your Petunias growing well, don't forget to deadhead them frequently to get continuous bloom. Something I am going to try this year is to plant some seeds very late. Hopefully this will give me a fresh young crop of Petunias in late summer when everything looks dead. So try some of the different kinds of Petunias and enjoy the display!

MBGC Meeting, 10 November 2020

In attendance for Zoom presentation by Laura Boyd-Clowdes entitled “Gardening with the Cowichan Green Community.” 33 computers watching. Thanks to Dustin Carlton for moderating the talk.

Meeting:

1. President’s Report: Bernie Juurlink

- a. Call to order at 8:00 pm
- b. Acceptance of minutes

Moved by Dustin Carlton, seconded by Janice Rose

The President thanked Gill Keir and Dustin Carlton for making the Zoom presentation possible, with Gordon Hamilton as host.

Notes that the meeting of 24 November will be the last in-person meeting for the season, though tents will be used during inclement weather and library and plants will be available.

Thanks to Ernie Santos and Dee for making available 17 kilos of kiwi fruit for sale (members should send an email in advance of the meeting if they wish some fruit)

President Juurlink asks for additions to agenda of 24 November and wishes to discuss what could happen in January and February. The library is one activity that could continue.

2. Vice President’s Report: none

3. Treasurer’s Report: Gord Hamilton noted that the club has \$1223.00 in the bank, the current \$500 bursary has been paid, and an additional \$1000 is in the GIC bursary account. As of 10 November, 32 individuals had used E-transfer to pay their membership dues. GH encourages others to do the same at MBGCmembership@gmail.com. This account can also be used to make a Christmas donation to the local food bank.

Ann Baty asks when Bursary GIC will mature? GH: next year.

4. Secretary’s Report: Dorothy Kennedy [no report]#

5. Committee Reports:#

- A. Plant sales: Monika Morgan: Calls for branches, boughs and holly to be brought in or picked up. The kiwi will be 5 for \$1.00.#
- B. Library: Janice Rose: The library will be open on 24 November. She notes that a total of 47 books are out and asks for them to be returned. Moreover, she will gladly pick up the errant books if anyone does not wish to come out to the meeting. Additionally, hundreds of books are for sale.#
- C. Bursary: Ann Baty notes that the club has two \$500 bursaries but the Committee selected only one student this year, reserving the second \$500 for 2021. That will be the end of charity money and the club will need to make a decision about the future.#
- D. Memorial Garden: Katherine Miller notes the continuing problem with landscaping the garden due to the construction of the parking lot and the issue with communication involving the landscape company. Soil and mulch remain to be added.#
- E. Newsletter: Dave Byrnes notes the problem of “bounce-back” with some Shaw emails. Discussion about the usefulness of “mail chimp” and G-mail to get around this problem.

6. Next meeting: Where and when: Next meeting to be held on 24 November, outside the Mill Bay Community Hall, between 3:00 and 5:00. If it rains, the club’s tent will be raised. #

7. Adjournment by President Juurlink. Moved by Katherine Miller.#