



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting (ZOOM):
Date: **Tues, February 9, 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!



February Speaker:
Fran Benton
Moss and Lichens in your Garden
See page 3 for details

<http://www.bcseeds.org/registration/>

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FEBRUARY 19-21, 2021

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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

Although there was a bit of snow last week, spring is definitely peeking around the corner: we, for example, have one Camellia tree beginning to bloom and snowdrop flowers are peeking out from their stems. Unfortunately, Covid-19 is still rampant but hopefully widespread vaccinations will start in March. As of January 29, we have 233 active cases of Covid-19 on the Island, the majority of cases are within the Central Island Health region, which includes South Cowichan. If Covid-19 incidence goes down over the next month or so, and it should, we are planning to have an outdoors in-person event at the Hall on March 23rd or possibly the 30th like we had last October with access to the library, plant sales and possibly a raffle.

With Covid-19 changing the Club activities, the Club expenses are minimal this year. The expenses are mainly Hall rental (minimal so far), some outside speaker fees (local Club member speakers continue to decline speaker fees), membership in the BC Council of Garden Clubs plus the associated Club insurance and Zoom licence fees; however, we like to continue to support the charities we have supported in the past. Upon hearing which charitable organizations we support, a



number of people have opted to give the Club donations and we thank them for the donations.

I thought it would be worthwhile to list the charities we have supported for the past few years and hope to support in the future. These are: the Clements Centre Society, Cobble Hill-Mill Bay-Shawnigan Lake (CMS) Food Bank, Cowichan Hospice, Providence Farm, Somenos Transition House and the SPCA. In addition, we have a bursary program to support a local young person wishing to pursue further education in any area concerning plants.

In the January Bulletin I thanked all the people involved in the Christmas Swag sale that generated \$451 for the Club as well as \$235 for the CMS Food Bank. Monika Morgan is still selling Alpaca poo and if you would like some, please contact her. Norman and Gwen Redcliffe have been selling pea seeds originally obtained from Bill Herring and, in addition, have zinnia and delphinium seeds as well as bearded iris rhizomes and dahlia tubers for sale. They hope to raise over \$1,200 for our Club. Norman and Gwen will give a 5-minute presentation on what they have for sale in the next Club Zoom meeting on February 9th.

I thank Bill Herring, Barbara Kohlman and Elaine Scott for making the January meeting so successful.

Finally, on behalf of the Club I thank all the people who continue to make our Club successful despite the trying times.

Bernie

February's Speaker (Tuesday, February 9):

Fran Benton, via Zoom, on Moss and Lichens in your Garden

Fran did a degree in botany at UVic. She was fortunate to meet Dr. David Richardson, a lichenologist who suggested she continue studies in lichenology. Fran got a 3-year position as lichen curator at the University of Saskatchewan, and spent 3 summers in the arctic collecting lichens for the herbarium. Fran then returned to Victoria and worked for many years as the program naturalist at Swan Lake Nature Centre where she shared her admiration for moss and lichens. Fran wrote and illustrated lichen information pamphlets for the NWT government and BC Parks. Fran is a member of the Mill Bay Garden Club, and a frequent contributor to South Cowichan Life and to this newsletter.

Gill Keir (VP)

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!



Flower and Garden Show 2021

The members of the committee have decided, once again, that due to the covid virus, we cannot hold the annual Flower and Garden Show. The setup we use does not lend itself to our current needs. We require a secure building for the Silent Auction items and the vegetable and flower presentations and the Cobble Hill hall is not large enough to give us the essential spacing.

We have not given up though. There is an optimist in our midst, Janice, who wonders if we could hold a modified mini event in the Mill Bay Community Hall. Mary Jean has entertained some thoughts about an online Silent Auction. Everything was put on hold until this month when we reported to the Executive. I will arrange a meeting with the committee in February to discuss ideas. And, members, please forward your thoughts on how we can make things work for us this year.

Thank you.

Gill Keir

Fundraising for the Club by Norman Redcliffe

Gwen and I are raising a variety of plants, seeds etc for sale to MBGC members etc. to raise money for the continued operation of the Club, for the interest of it's members and friends and towards the numerous worthwhile charities the Club supports. Last year about \$900 was raised, and this year we are aiming for \$1,200.

This is a list of the "product" available to the membership. All seeds have been tested for germination and found to be above professional market standards. The plants and seeds are all very healthy and rarin' to grow.

Seeds and plants from our garden;

- 1) "Bill Herring Ten per pod pea 30+ seeds" \$4.00 per packet
- 2) Mixed colour, 30+ seeds for 4 ft. giant Zinnias \$4.00 per packet
- 3) Pacific Giant dark blue 6 ft. delphinium 30+seeds \$4.00 per packet
- 4) Bearded Iris plants from our own divided rhizomes, different tall named varieties in a wide range of gorgeous colours. Further details, photos (possibly) etc on request. All in 6 inch, (one gallon) pots available starting March 1. We recommend that you pre-order because of limited supply; \$8;00 each.
- 5) Dahlia plants, 12 different prize varieties, tuber raised,, six inch pot grown. Photos available on request as far as possible. Please pre-order for "post April 1 delivery".. plant out after last frost. We usually do that on May 1st.. \$8.00 each

Please email orders ASAP because our stocks are limited. Also, we are running low on 6 inch pots (empty!) as we sent out over 200 potted plants in 2020 to "essential workers"and MBGC members and charities.

If you have any spare ones, we will collect them outside your property with pleasure. Many thanks. Or you may drop them off and see/collect the plants/seeds here at the same time!

Members are welcome to walk around the outside of our greenhouse to observe operations, just let us know when.. Gwen and I are masked and socially distanced when we are working in the greenhouse or garden with visitors. We will also deliver at pre-arranged times at the "Community Hall" as in 2020

Please phone for further details and up-dates.

Norman Redcliffe and Gwen Carlson-Redcliffe.

Plant Sales

Well, it's warming up & we are dreaming & planning about getting into our gardens.

Need some alpaca gold? Carolyn Herriot (local gardening guru) calls alpaca manure "the Rolls Royce of manures." It doesn't need composting & can be applied fresh to your garden plot without burning plants.

We can supply 5 gallon buckets for \$5. Total funds go towards the running of our garden club (rent, speakers, etc.) Proceeds go towards community charities. Let Monika Morgan know & we can supply you.

Thinking about planting potatoes? Heather Jenkins has about 3 dozen just "chitting" & willing to donate.

Let Monika know!

Have you goods to donate that other gardeners may appreciate? Let Monika know!

Dream gardening

Monika & Sharon
Plant sales team



Congratulations!

The Victoria Horticultural Society turned 100 years old on January 31st!

Celebrating the past ... looking to the future



The Victoria Horticultural Society is 100 years old!

Whilst Covid means that we will be unable to host in-person events for the foreseeable future, we still plan to celebrate this milestone in other ways.

Information on events and speakers will be posted to our website — check regularly for the latest information!

www.vichortsociety.org





Minutes: January 12th, 2021 General Meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club

7:00 p.m.: 32 computers participated in Zoom Meeting

President Bernie Juurlink: asks for additions to the agenda. None.

Approval of the minutes of December Zoom meeting

Moved by Janice Rose

Seconded by Dave Byrnes

President's Report – Bernie Juurlink

No in-person meetings possible, but it is hoped that by March the Club will be able to have an outdoor meeting similar to November's gathering at the Community Hall.

President thanked members holding Christmas sales and those who donated kiwi for sale.

Committee Reports

Library Report – Janice Rose: All library books that have been checked out may remain out until we can once again gather.

Plant Sales – Monika Morgan: Thanks to members, all the kiwi are now gone. People who wish to obtain Alpaca poo can give her a call.

Gillian Keir: Offered thanks to Barb Kohlman, Elaine Scott and Bill Herring for participating in an Experts Panel responding to previously-submitted questions from the membership.

Responses to the questions were recorded and Dave Byrnes subsequently forwarded a link to the discussion to MBGC members.