



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

Next Meeting (ZOOM):

Date: **Tues, March 9, 2021**

Time: 7pm

Place: Your desk or a comfy armchair
in your home

Activities:

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



March Speaker:

Dr Drew Zwart

**Native Trees and the
Changing Environment**

See page 3 for details

The Return of The Brag Table

Leap Into Spring!

With plant and flower identification and commentary provided by **Barb Kohlman**, the Brag Table has been a great part of our monthly in-person meetings. At this month's general (Zoom) meeting, we will do it virtually!

Do you have one interesting item from your garden? Share it by holding it up to your Zoom camera and Barb will comment on it (please make sure it's well lit!)



"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.

Inside...

- President's Report p 2
- This Month's Speaker p 3
- This and that p 4-5
- Barb Kohlman's Tips p 6
- Spring Back 2021 p 7-8
- Last meeting minutes p 9

President's Letter

Bernie Juurlink

I am afraid I was a bit hasty in the last newsletter thinking that spring was peeking around the corner. But, fortunately, the snowdrops, hellebore flowers and camellia blooms survived the cold and the snow. During the recent snowfall we did, however, cover with a pot the Winter Jewels Rose Quartz hellebore flower. We obtained this plant from Fraser's Thimble Farms a few years ago at one of the Club meetings. The fourteen-day weather forecast for the South Cowichan is no frost with daytime temperatures ranging from 7° C to 11° C; hence, I think it is now safe to say that spring is around the corner.

We had two events planned for March: 1) Gillian Keir has lined up a speaker for the March 9th Zoom meeting. 2) An in-person event at the Mill Bay Community Hall similar to the event held last October. Unfortunately, high rates of Covid-19 infections are still with us and Dr Bonnie Henry has extended restrictions to social gatherings, both indoors and outdoors,

well into March. Hopefully we can have an in-person outdoors event in April.

I thank Monika Morgan who is still generating monies for the Club by selling Alpaca poo and I thank Norman and Gwen Redcliffe for generating funds for the Club. As of February 22nd, Norman and Gwen have raised \$804 for the Club by selling seeds and irises from their garden.

Bernie



March 9, 2021, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda

- 1) 7:00 p.m.: Speaker - chaired by Gillian Keir.
- 2) 8:00 p.m.: Club Business
 - a) Approval of the agenda
 - b) Approval of the minutes of February 9, 2021 Club Zoom meeting
 - c) President's Report – Bernie Juurlink
 - d) Plant Committee report - Monika Morgan
 - e) Virtual Brag Table
 - f) Garden-related Questions with Bill Herring, Barb Kohlman and Elaine Scott
 - g) Questions for the Executive?

March's Speaker (Tuesday, March 9):

**Dr Drew Zwart, via Zoom, on
Native Trees and the Changing Environment: What we know,
what we don't know, and how we might be able to help.**

The Speaker this month is **Dr Drew Zwart**, a plant pathologist and physiologist on staff at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories for the past 15 years. Dr Zwart earned his PhD at the University of Washington – Center for Urban Horticulture, studying the interaction of plant stress and disease susceptibility. He provides scientific support throughout Bartlett's western operations, including California, Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia. Drew conducts research on plant stress physiology, and plant disease and insect concerns. Drew is an ISA-certified arborist and a Registered Consulting Arborist (RCA #630).

Dr. Zwart likes an engaged audience and is looking forward to talking to you and answering your questions.

Gill Keir (VP)

Never too old to be curious...

“Nagaoka wrote back to report that he'd observed the development of the [leaf] structures on multiple individual miyama-nigauri plants and at different sites, and he'd formed a hypothesis of what they were for: to protect the plant's flowers and fruit.”

Nick Jenkins sent this link to a fascinating article in The Scientist. The specialized leaves were discovered by an 80-year-old volunteer guide at a Japanese nature preserve. (You will probably have to copy and paste the link into your browser.)

<https://www.the-scientist.com/notebook/specialized-leaves-keep-this-plants-fruit-warm-68367>

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.

Gill Keir

Qs and As

Chris Gatfield writes...

“Any ideas as to how to make this Aeonium happier?”

“It came in for the winter and has lost it’s colour and many leaves.”

Thanks - Chris Gatfield”

Answer by Errynn Potter, Master Gardener in Training:



1. Why are the leaves dropping?

- Old leaves naturally shed a new growth is pushed out during active growing period, which is in the winter. Leaves typically appear shriveled and crunchy.
- Under-watering can cause older leaves to shrivel and drop to conserve energy. Typically watering schedule for these during the winter is once ever 10-14 days.
- Over-watering can cause leaves to drop as well, but will typically feel soft and squishy – looks for signs of root rot, especially if soil remains constantly moist. The soil must have really good drainage (50/50 cactus soil & perlite) – allow top half of soil to dry between watering. It’s easier for a plant, especially a succulent, to recover from under-watering than over-watering.

2. Why are the leaves losing (or have lost) their colour?

- Lack of light. Aeoniums need full, direct sunlight for a minimum of 8 hours a day. East-facing windows are best. If this much light cannot be satisfied naturally, invest in a full spectrum grow light is strongly recommended to supplement – especially during winter months (when its darkest outside during the main growth period).

Source: <https://succulentplantcare.com/aeoniums-drooping-leaves-dropping-are-my-aeoniums-dying/>.



MILL BAY PLANTAHOLICS 2021 PLANT SALE

The Mill Bay Plantaholics are busy planning their 2021 plant sale. Last year's sale was extremely successful and a similar system is planned for this year with some slight adjustments to make things easier for everyone. If you ordered on line last year you will receive an email in late March/early April providing you with details of the sale and a plant list. If you did not order on line last year and would like the plant list when it is finalized email Elaine Scott at TheScottRogers@aol.com and she will add you to the customer list. There have been over 1200 plants potted up to date so there is a great selection.

As usual the proceeds from the sale will be divided between Malawi Girls on the Move and Somenos House in Duncan.

Here is the plan.

The plant list will be emailed out to our customers late March/early April together with the arrangements for the sale.

The sale will begin on April 17 and will continue for about three weeks or until most of the plants have been sold.

There will be two pick-ups every week - Saturdays 1-5 and Tuesdays 1-5.

Orders received from Tuesday pm to Friday pm will be ready for the Saturday afternoon pick-up.

Orders received from Saturday am to Tuesday am will be available for the Tuesday afternoon pick-up.

Orders will be filled in the order they are received.

The orders will be on tables at the top of the driveway. There will be space for parking for three cars and we will keep a check on numbers. So drive up the driveway to pick up your order.

If you would like to check other plants on the plant list that can be arranged when you arrive for your pick-up.

Masks and safe distancing will be required even if you have had your vaccine.

Payment can be either by cash or email.



Gardening Tips for March 2021 by Barb Kohlman

- Pruning; prune out all ddd's dead, diseased, damaged and DUMB
- Disinfect tools with a 10% solution of bleach if you suspect disease.
- Prune down Group C clematis to two or three good strong buds at the base.
- Prune summer blooming shrubs.
- Dolomite lime spread over root area of lilac, mock orange, deutzia would be a good thing to do now.
- Deadhead early blooming bulbs – and leave their foliage to die naturally.
- Can plant true lilies now. But wait till soil is warmer to plant dahlias, gladioli and other tender bulbs.
- Start seeds of tender annuals indoors , following the seed package instructions.
- Bring your over-wintered patio plants into warmer, brighter light and fertilize them lightly when growth resumes.
- Perhaps get a tetanus booster to avoid soil-borne bacteria diseases.
- Divide and transplant summer and fall blooming perennials.
- Place supports for tall or floppy flowers before plants are fully grown and it is too late.



Cheers — barb k

Plant Sales

Unfortunately we won't be able to meet in person the end of march for a plant sale.

If you are interested in:

- alpaca manure (by the gallon bucket- \$5.)
- Chitted potatoes
- Hellebores (Orientalis. Pink or white)

Let me know & we can accommodate you.

Monika & Sharon



SPRING BACK 2021

SATURDAY MARCH 27 9AM-1PM AND SUNDAY MARCH 28 9AM-1PM

This year, the Vancouver Master Gardeners are going digital!

Spring Back 2021 will be held via Zoom on Saturday March 27th and Sunday March 28th, 9am to 1pm, each day.

If you miss a speaker, do not worry. Everything will be available online for you to view for 2 weeks after the event.

Because our event is online this year, we were able to cast a wider net, and as a result we have booked some truly outstanding speakers, renowned gardening experts from the UK and the Pacific Northwest. This year's theme is "resilience", and our speakers will offer advice on growing food in small spaces, the latest trends in natural floral landscapes, plants that triumph over extreme conditions, and plant-protecting tactics in a climate changing world. Here is the line-up:

Saturday March 27th, 9am – 1pm (Pacific Standard Time)

Dr. Noel Kingsbury Choosing Plants for Resilience

Choosing plants for resilience has to start with longevity and the ability to recover from damage. These issues are surprisingly little understood, and much of the industry has a vested interest in selling short-lived plants. Noel talks about the whole spectrum of plant longevity and long-term performance from a research perspective, and how to recognize it and make use of it in the garden.

Noel is a British garden designer, and author promoting an ecological or naturalistic approach to planting design. He has written some 25 books on various aspects of plants and gardens, four in collaboration with the acclaimed Dutch designer / plantsman Piet Oudolf.

Jonathon Jones Resistance is Fertile

In the face of overwhelming pressures, we are often told that resistance is futile. 'Resistance is Fertile' takes the opposite view and will fill you with hope and excitement for what you can achieve this season. The latest findings from this year's Oxford Farming Conference encourages us to improve the nutrition of what we grow. Boost the resilience of what you grow with good fertility and reap the rewards. Inspiring insights, glorious views, fun facts, hard science plus plenty of tea, will keep you on the edge of your seat! Live from the largest private garden in the UK, at Tregothnan in Cornwall.

Jonathon is Managing Director of Tregothnan Estate in Truro, England and a pioneer in establishing the first homegrown tea company in the UK

Egan Davis Survivors

Have you ever thought "Wow! Look at that plant! How on earth is it still alive?!" It is incredible how resilient plants are. Egan Davis will take you on a virtual tour to look at some extraordinary plants that he has marveled at over the years. These are characters that have withstood the test of time in punishing conditions. He will explore the most unlikely locations including public parks, urban beaches, neighbourhoods, industrial sites, and commercial parking lots. Each plant is a fascinating story in itself and Egan will discuss the factors that have contributed to their ability to not only survive but thrive. These remarkable plants will provide new and surprising lessons for the gardener. You will never look at a plant the same way again.

Egan is a Red Seal horticulturist at the University of BC. His diverse background includes garden design, landscape construction, botanical garden operations and greenhouse and nursery production.

SPRING BACK 2021 (continued)

Sunday March 28th, 9am – 1pm (PST)

Fergus Garrett Biodiversity at Great Dixter

In recent years, there has been much enthusiasm to encourage wildlife in our gardens. This has been predominantly done through 'planting for pollinators'. However, encouraging wildlife goes much deeper than this. Great Dixter, from one year's surveying, was found to contain over 2300 different species of wildlife in its varied matrix of plantings. The usage of both woody and herbaceous plants, and our practises of avoiding chemical interventions in the garden has been the key to this. This mosaic provides not only pollen and nectar resources, but breeding sites, refuges and overwintering habitats for a wide variety of species. It is the interplay of habitats and plants that has made the garden such a rich and biodiverse site. It reflects our own holistic view of plant material and its ecological potential, and an approach that we encourage the gardener to use.

Fergus is the head gardener at Great Dixter in the UK and worked closely with Christopher Lloyd until Lloyd's death in 2006.

Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott Gardening in a Changing Climate

Gardeners know that the climate is changing - they can see evidence in their own gardens and landscapes. Drier, hotter summers and unpredictable swings in weather throughout the year are challenging plant survival and soil health. Linda will discuss plant selection and management strategies that will help our plants and soils "whether the weather".

Linda is Washington State University's Extension Urban Horticulturist and an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture. Linda is also an award-winning author.

Panel - Vegetables in Unique Spaces

Lorene Edwards Forkner Cultivating Delicious

Learn how to leverage your growing space into a nearly constant harvest of delicious food. We'll look at efficient planting strategies that make the most of the entire growing season by embracing the warm and cool aspects of our region. Lorene will share tips for maximizing your harvest from a single sowing and discuss secondary crops and flavours only available to the home grower. It's all about the food people!

Lorene is a gardener, writer for the Seattle Times Pacific Magazine and author of 5 garden books, including The Timber Press Guide to Vegetable Gardening: Pacific Northwest.

Andrea Bellamy Incredible Edibles in Containers

With a focus on planning, planting, and maintaining an edible small-space garden, Growing Incredible Edibles in Containers is aimed at new gardeners and those who are new to growing edibles in containers. Like a Small Space Vegetable Growing 101 course, with a focus on attractive design, we'll also look at how to choose containers and the best varieties for small spaces, as well as how to maximize productivity in pots and keep container-grown plants healthy.

Andrea is the creator of Heavy Petal, a blog devoted to urban organic gardening and author. Her most recent book is Small Space Vegetable Gardens.

TO REGISTER GO TO MGABC AND CLICK ON SPRING BACK 2021. Registration is \$50



MINUTES FOR GENERAL MEETING

7:00 pm Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Via Zoom

Attendance: 35 COMPUTERS LINKED IN

Gillian Keir introduced Fran Benton who gave an engaging talk on Moses & Lichens. Fran is an expert in this field and in her opening informed the group that BC has more mosses and lichens than any other Province!

President's Report: Bernie Juurlink

Call to order at 7:02 pm

Acceptance of the revised Agenda

Moved by Janice Rose, seconded by Gillian Keir– all voted in favour.

Acceptance of minutes from January 27, 2021

Moved by Pip Woodcock; seconded by Gillian Keir

President reported that there would be no in-person events until spring, hopefully, due to Covid-19.

Norman and Gwen Redcliffe gave a brief presentation and announced their sale of dahlia tubers and iris.

Committee Reports:

Library: Janice Rose noted that it is okay for members to have overdue library books.

New Business

Elaine Scott noted that two events are coming: Virtual Seedy Saturday (19th – 21st February) and Springback 2021 (27th-28th March), hosted by the Master Gardeners Association. Members should check websites for details.

Garden Questions answered by Elaine Scott

Monika Morgan noted that Heather Jenkins has potatoes and Sharon Martin has hellebores, should members wish more.

Motion to adjourn made by Fran Benton at 8:45 p.m.