



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com

Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting (ZOOM):

Date: **Tues, January 25, 2022**

Time: 7pm

Place: Your desk or a comfy armchair
in your home

Activities:

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



January Speaker:

Brian White

**On Exotic Places and
Unusual Plants**

See page 3 for details



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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.

Mary is currently under the weather and is having a rest from sending cards. Janice Rose has stepped into the breach, and is continuing to send cards to members until Mary returns.

If you know of someone in the club who is sick, in hospital, or has lost a loved one, please let Janice know and she will send a card on our behalf.



President's Report - January 2022

Bernie Juurlink

Happy New Year Everyone.

We will soon be entering year three of the Covid-19 pandemic with the Omicron variant sweeping across the country and the world. In BC unvaccinated people are 12 times more likely to be hospitalized, 27 times more likely to end up in intensive care and 40 times more likely to die from the infection. So please encourage friends and family not vaccinated to get vaccinated. I know someone who told me he is never sick, never gets a cold or a flu and will not get Covid-19 and, therefore, does not need to be vaccinated. He would not listen to the importance of vaccination and is now in an ICU with Covid-19. The fully vaccinated generally have mild symptoms after exposure to the Covid-19 virus but there are still the unfortunate few vaccinated individuals whose immune systems do not effectively deal with the infection and can end up hospitalized, so masking and social distancing is important whether one is vaccinated or not.



On a positive note, there are signs of spring appearing: squirrels are becoming frisky, male Anna's

hummingbirds are doing their courtship dives,

hellebore flowers are beginning to make their appearance and I am perusing seed catalogues. This bedraggled Winter Jewels Rose Quartz Hellebore flower survived the recent snow beaten down but not beat: a good attitude to have during this pandemic.

I thank all the people involved in the preparation of materials and the sale of the Christmas swag at the pop-up sale held in early December of 2021. I especially thank Pat and Alex Spezowka for initiating, organizing and hosting this event, and Monika Morgan for assisting in the organization. This event raised over \$1,650 for the Club as well as \$212 for the Cobble Hill- Mill Bay-Shawnigan Lake (CMS) Foodbank.

In previous reports I had been remiss in not thanking Dorothy Kennedy for her service to the Club by serving as Secretary since 2020. Dorothy's work became overwhelming and she had to step aside last October and Melanie Fiander graciously stepped into the position. Thank you Dorothy for all your work as Secretary and Melanie for stepping in.

Cliff Stainsby has great speakers lined up for the rest of the Garden Club year. Our next Club meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, the 25th of January. Our first speaker will be Dr Brian White who has gone to exotic places seeking unusual plants. See you on the 25th.

Bernie

January 25, 2022, Mill Bay Garden Club Agenda

- 1) 7:00 p.m. Speaker: **Brian White** - chaired by Cliff Stainsby
- 2) 8:00 p.m.: Club Business
 - a) Approval of the agenda
 - b) Approval of November 23, 2021 minutes
 - c) President's Report – Bernie Juurlink
 - d) Flower & Garden Show – Gill Keir
 - e) Executive Committee reports
 - f) Virtual Brag Table
 - g) Garden-related Questions with our Master Gardeners
 - h) Questions for the Executive?
 - i) Adjournment

January's Speaker (Tuesday, January 25):

Brian White, PhD via Zoom

Brian is a professor in the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management at Royal Roads University in Victoria. Brian's research specialties include horticultural tourism, heritage tourism, sustainable destination development, community leadership and indigenous tourism. His recent international and domestic consulting work includes community tourism strategic planning, biodiversity assessment, educational tourism planning, and First Nations tourism planning. He worked for several years with the University of British Columbia Botanical Gardens researching plant diversity and parks management in the Huang Lien Mountains in Northern Vietnam, and currently represents Royal Roads University on Gardens BC.



Committee Reports

2022 MBGC Flower and Garden Show

We are fortunate this year to have all positions on the Flower and Garden Show Committee filled early and we are starting to plan the show. We have booked the Cobble Hill Farmer's Institute Hall for May 27th and 28th.

We will use the existing format for the planning, but mainly as a guide to keep the process organized. We cannot run the show exactly the way we have in years past and some elements may be modified or jettisoned. We will require flexibility to apply new and different ways to run the show and to have our members and the public comfortable about participating.

Thanks, ahead of it all, for your involvement.

Gill Keir, Committee Chair

Notes from the Library

Our MBGC has an extensive collection of excellent books. Since March 2020 they have been collecting dust and time to give them some breathing room. I would be happy to lend any book on any topic from our collection.

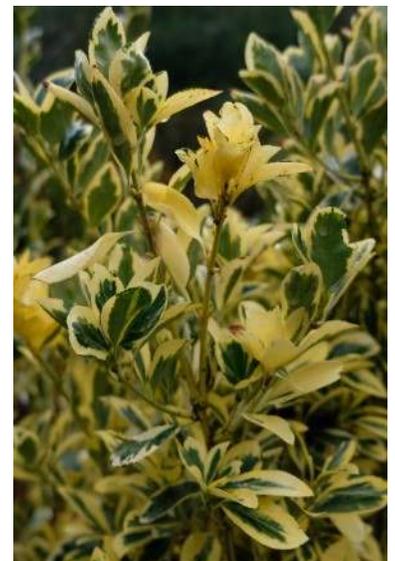
If you would like a book please email me and I will go into the library and pick one up. I will also bring home a few of the most popular books and have them here at home for lending.

Our most recently purchased book is *Finding The Mother Tree* by Dr. Suzanne Simard. Dr. Simard is a globally recognized ecologist who has forever changed how people view trees and their connections to one another and other living things in the forest. This book is a must read for any gardener.

*Your friendly librarian
Janice Rose*

Send a Get Well Card to Mary Gale!

Mary Gale, one of our pioneer MBGC members has fallen ill and has been in the hospital since mid December. Over the last thirty years she has sent hundreds of cards to garden club members who needed a bit of a pick-me-up. Please join us in helping lift Mary's spirits by sending her a get well card.



Recycle Your Christmas Swag

We just wanted to let the wonderful people who purchased our wreaths know that they are recyclable. You can remove the greens and decorations and use the grapevine wreath again or you can drop them off at one of our houses and we will recycle them. Just leave them at the end of our driveways. If dropping it off is not convenient just give us a call, info below, and we may be able to pick it up. No rush on this. I (Pat) usually keep mine up until the end of January.

Call or email Pat for details - see page 3



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!

Free Zoom Talk from the Hardy Plants Group

The Victoria Hardy Plant Group is pleased to invite MBGC members to our 2022 Elizabeth England Memorial Lecture featuring Midori Shintani, head gardener of Tokachi Millennium Forest. **Midori will join us from Hokkaido, Japan, via Zoom, on February 10, 2022 at 7 PM PST.**

As our premier event, the Elizabeth England Memorial Lecture is always open to the public, however, this year we have decided to go one step further and make this lecture FREE for everyone to attend. You will be truly inspired by Midori's presentation on 'Gardening at Tokachi Millennium Forest'. In her talk, Midori will introduce the unique modern garden movement in Japan and share how she and her small garden team, in partnership with the garden designer Dan Pearson, nurture the 400 hectares of native forests and the cultivated garden areas through the seasons. A Q & A session will follow.

Please note, there is no cost to join in the lecture, however, interested gardeners must pre-register using our online form.

Alternatively they can type the following into their browser: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MnWDL6JIRXG6LdmghFm0Vw

Only those registered will receive the ZOOM invite to the lecture. Also, the meeting recordings are limited to Hardy members, so your members will have to join in on the night in order to enjoy Midori's lecture.

Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for details.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 23, 2021

Via Zoom

7:01 p.m.: Talk on projected Climate Change in the Cowichan Valley by Jeff Moore. In summary: warmer & drier summers and wetter winters with much more variability in the weather.

Garden Club Meeting

Call to Order at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda – moved by Dave Byrnes, seconded by Norman Redcliffe, all in favour

Acceptance of Minutes from October 12, 2021 – moved by Cliff Stainsby and seconded by Norman Redcliffe, all in favour.

1. Presidents report: Bernie Juurlink – no report other than Covid-19 is still rampant.
2. Flower & Garden Show: Gill Keir: The Show is set for May 28, 2022 with set-up on the 27th. All but one of the Committee members are returning - looking for a volunteer for advertising. The first Flower & Garden Show Committee meeting is in January. Likely the old format will not work as Covid-19 probably will still be around – please come up with ideas for an alternate format for the Show. The Show is important not only as a fund-raiser but also as a way for Garden Club members to connect.
3. Pop-Up Christmas Sale: Pat Spezowka: Pat thanked people for bringing in greenery and decorations. Volunteers will come together and to create wreathes, etc and the pop-up sale will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from December 2 to December 4 on Pat's front porch. This year the sale will be more widely advertised with signs and posters. There will be a donation box for the CMS Foodbank.
4. Brag Table: Elaine Scott and Barbara Juurlink displayed bouquets with the many plants still in bloom in their gardens.
5. Adjournment: 8:11 p.m. Cliff Stainsby moved to adjourn.

The Victoria Hardy Plant Group
Presents the 2022 Elizabeth England Lecture

Midori Shintani

Head Gardener, Tokachi Millennium Forest
Hokkaido, Japan

*Gardening at Tokachi
Millennium Forest*

**February 10, 2022
7 - 8:30 PM PST
Via Zoom**

Kiichi Noro

In her talk on Tokachi Millennium Forest, Midori Shintani will introduce the unique modern garden movement in Japan and share how she and her small garden team nurture 400 hectares of native forests and cultivated garden areas through the seasons.

Midori's gardening methods are rooted in the accumulated wisdom of ancient Japanese belief and culture. Since 2008, in partnership with Tokachi Millennium Forest's garden designer, Dan Pearson, she has stewarded the evolution of this remarkable environmental conservation project.

**To register for this FREE online lecture
please visit:**

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MnWDL6JIRXG6LdmghFm0Vw

For more info visit:

<https://vichortsociety.org/hardy-plant-group/>

Kiichi Noro