



# MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: [www.millbaygardenclub.com](http://www.millbaygardenclub.com) Email: [mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com)



## Next Meeting:

Date: **Tues, January 23rd**

Time: **7pm (Doors open 6:30pm)**

Place: **Mill Bay Community League Hall (1001 Shawnigan Mill Bay Rd)**

### Activities:

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

## January Speaker: Anna Colangeli

### Exploring the Role of Genetic Research in the Garden

*See page 3 for details*

## January Brag Table Theme:

### January Gems

With plant and flower identification and commentary provided by Barb Kohlman, the Brag Table is a great part of our monthly meetings. It's a fun and interactive way to share what's going on in your garden. The bonus is a prize awarded randomly to one of the monthly participants. If you've never participated, give it a fling, be it flower, vegetable or fungus!



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***DON'T FORGET!***  
*bring your mug  
for coffee/tea!*



## President's Report

Ajay Oppelaar

Hello and happy new year to you all. I hope the holiday season was filled with good times and warm memories with friends and family near and far. We welcomed a puppy to the house in December and Bosco now runs the place. He's smart, and I'm planning on teaching him to dig and divide hostas.

The Executive and Committee Meeting last week was lightly attended, with a total of 7 members absent! Regardless, Janice managed to keep the meeting well packed with information. One item we discussed in great depth is the matter of start-up money for the beginning of the club season in September. It was debated, discussed, and agreed on that we would set aside a specified amount of money at the end of each season to ensure the solvency of our organization. That amount will total \$6,000. \$5000 to fund the production of the Mill Bay Flower and Garden Show, and \$1000 for the MBGC to pay its bills for the upcoming season: rent, insurance, office supplies etc. In addition, the bursary fund will be topped up to maintain a balance of \$1000.

The remainder of our income for the season then goes back to the community in the form of donations approved at the AGM in June. I still cannot believe that we as a small community based volunteer organization are able to raise as much money and give back as much as we do. It continues to be a source of pride for us, seeing as many other clubs do not have the level of participation from its members that we do.

January marks the beginning of the planning season for the Mill Bay Flower and Garden Show which takes place Saturday May 26th, with set-up and entrees judged on Friday May 25th. This is how and where we as an organization are able to raise enough money to give back thousands of dollars every year to the community. The show and all its aspects last year brought in over \$5300.00!

The single largest portion of this money is raised by the hard working volunteers who organize the silent auction program. The extremely important role of Silent Auction

Chair is at this moment open. Last year the auction brought in a staggering \$4300! Show Chairperson Gill Keir is holding the first planning meeting for the season on Tuesday January 30th at 7pm. If you have the time and desire to help out with the silent auction or any of the other divisions including outdoor vendors, speakers program, indoor floor show, promotions/media and judging assistance, please get in touch with Gill and plan on attending this very important meeting. We need your talents to pull this show off every year!

Seedy Saturday is fast approaching, and of course the MBGC will have a table in the main hall to promote the Flower and Garden Show as well as make contact with members of the community who may be interested in joining the MBGC. We already have at least six members who plan on manning the table and fielding questions but more are always welcome as space allows. Please talk to Cliff or me if you are interested in helping out at Seedy Saturday, March 10th 10 am-2pm.

By all accounts, there is an improvement in the audibility of our Q&A sessions, with repeating the questions for all to hear and the speaker wired for sound, but I will personally need to make that effort to repeat as much of the questions as possible. Thanks for your patience.

Monika needs plants for the plant sale table, if you have anything you'd like to donate please bring it in on meeting nights or contact Monika.

Hope to see lots of you on the 23rd of January at 7pm. Please remember this month that our regular monthly meeting is the 4th Tuesday of the month, not on the last Tuesday. This year January has 5 Tuesdays.



## January's Speaker:

### Anna Colangeli on Genetic Research in the Garden



This month's speaker is Anna Colangeli. Her topic is "Exploring the Role of Genetic Research in the Garden"

Dr. Anna Colangeli is a retired Camosun College instructor where she taught in the Departments of Biology and Environmental Technology. She holds degrees in Microbiology, Genetics and Forest Ecology.

Anna is a trained Master Gardener, an avid gardener and has a keen interest in the role of scientific developments in the world of plants.

Presentation Summary:

#### **Exploring the Role of Genetic Research in the Garden**

There is an explosion of new information in the world of genetics and botany. The presentation provides an overview of the technical advances in molecular genetics and biotechnology and explores the role of Genetic Research on garden plants. A discussion of the impacts of technology on our gardens will be explored.

*Anna spoke at the Master Gardeners "Mixing it Up" seminar last January. Although the subject sounds dry, she is a very dynamic speaker and presents her information in such a way that a non-scientist understands and gets excited about it. Her explanation of GMOs blew me away.*

*Mary Vandenberg*

## Membership News

A warm welcome to new members who joined at the November meeting: Brenda Donn, Mary-Jean Morrison and Linda Patterson.

### **\* Membership Fees are Due NOW!! \***

The annual **\$10** membership fee is due by this month's meeting: **January 23, 2018.**

This reasonable fee goes toward running the club, paying for speakers at our monthly meetings, and the donation to local charities at the end of the year. If you did not contribute your \$10 fee in the fall, please pay your membership fees this month to contribute to these activities.

Please note that unpaid memberships will be removed from the email and communications distribution lists starting in February.

*Thank you,  
JoAnn Mulhern*



## “Sunshine Mary”

Our esteemed Lifetime Member, Mary Gale, has for a 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.

And should you have any blank cards (handcrafted most welcome!) that you would like to donate toward this endeavour, they would be very much appreciated.



## Plant Table

Thank you to all who made donations to our plant table last year. Another year is upon us & we mostly dream about getting out in the gardens. No plants to dress up our table this month (except for one more African violet & the last pregnant onion :-)

Are you cleaning up your tools for the season? Are there some you no longer find use for but perhaps someone else may be able to use?

Also, if you've still got produce from last season, or herbs to share, we'd love to share those. We understand Janice may have some extra magazines that you may want to take home for a small donation also.

We also have another donation that someone may be interested in: An ULTRASORTER. a motorized coin sorter. Come & check it out at the plant sales tables.

(You never know what surprises may show up at our table:)

*Monika Morgan & Sharon Martin*

## Social Media

If you use Facebook, don't forget to check us out and "LIKE" us at:

[www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/millbaygardenclub)

*Pauline Dueck  
FaceBook Coordinator*

## Food Bank!

Thanks to the generosity of members at the Christmas Party Potluck last month, the Mill Bay Garden Club raised a donation of \$341.05 for the Food Bank! Bravo, everyone!



## Flower and Garden Show 2018

The 2018 edition of the Mill Bay Flower and Garden Show will be held on May 26, 2018. We still need committee heads for the Silent Auction, Judging, Inside Hall Co-ordinator, Publicity & Promotion, Outside Vendors, Photographer, Workshops. I will have a printed list, with the description of these committees, to circulate at the General Meeting.

The first meeting for the Flower Show committee will be at my home, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.

*Gill Keir*

## Notes from the Library

Books continue to be added to our library from the private collection of Wendy Porteous. Please come and check out our latest books covering a huge range of topics. A large number of magazines will also be available at our Plant Sales table this month!

Please remember to return all books that were borrowed last autumn. If you are unable to attend the meeting and have a book just give me a call and I can pick it up.

Your Friendly Librarian,  
Janice Rose

## Upcoming Events

- First local (more or less) Seedy Saturday is at Qualicum Beach on Saturday, February 3rd from 10:00am til 3:30pm. For venue and details, please see the 16th Annual Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday (2018) notice appended to the end of the newsletter, or visit <http://qbseedysaturday.ca/>
- Cobble Hill's 18th Seedy Saturday will be held on March 10th from 10:00am til 2:00pm. More info at the end of the newsletter.
- Additional Seedy Saturdays happening in February include Salt Spring, Victoria, Tofino and Sooke. For a complete listing of Seedy Saturdays in February and March, visit <http://www.harbourliving.ca/VancouverIslandSeedySaturdays.php>
- Watch this space for news of the Vancouver Island Heather Society Annual Sale (March), and the Mill Bay Plantaholics Plant Sale (April) in the February newsletter!

## Gardening Tips for January by Barb Kohlman

Keep tabs on you garden — make a scrapbook/journal of the plants you purchase, paste in the label, and write details of when planted, where purchased etc.



Spray your shovels with silicon spray for easier digging — WHEN THE GROUND DRIES OUT! ...way too wet right now!

Layer the bottom 1/3 of your pots with styrofoam packing peanuts (make sure they aren't made from cornstarch) to lighten the pot for moving .Put a layer of landscape fabric over the peanuts and place your potting mix on top.

When adding a more aggressive plant to your garden, plant it in a pot with the bottom cut out, roots can still go down, but the plant will not spread so easily.

When growing roses it is essential to keep the centre of the plant open by careful pruning to help prevent disease like black spot.

When purchasing new plants check to see if the roots are pot-bound — coming up over the top, or out through the drainage holes, or if the pot is solid feeling on the outside. Be careful purchasing a plant that is very pot-bound — either don't, or when taking the plant out of the pot, tease out the roots to help them spread or even cut slits from top to bottom of the rootball about 5 times around the circumference to stop the roots from circling.

Cheers, Barb k.



**Christmas Party Potluck Photos**  
*Courtesy Norman Redcliffe*





**Christmas Party Potluck Photos**  
*Courtesy Norman Redcliffe*



# Mill Bay Garden Club

## General Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, November 28, 2017

7:05 PM call to order

**President's report:** Ajay Oppelaar

- Acceptance of minutes from October meeting, moved by Norman, seconded by Cecile
- Thank you to set up crew and kitchen
- Member's forum requests
- We need 2 volunteers to cook turkeys: Dorothy Kennedy and Dot Garbot
- Millennium garden sub-committee 6 people will deal with this
- New newsletter editor-David Byrnes, thank you David!
- Sign up sheet for flower and garden committee volunteers and coffee issue questionnaire

**VP report:** Cliff Stainsby

- Pip will be showing slides of her trip to European gardens in February.
- Cliff talked about the casual garden tours in the spring. Contact Cliff or Mary in February if you are interested.
- The Eco-Sense tour with Gord Baird will be going on April 8th and will cost about \$20.
- There will be a tour of the rose garden at Royal Roads with Barrie Agar.

**Treasurer's report:** Marie Cooke

- We have \$858.53 in the bank account, plus the bursary

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership:** JoAnn Mulhern

- 3 new members!

**Raffle:** Tracy Morris

- 3 mystery prizes tonight

**Plant Sale Table:** Monika Morgan

- Lots of wreath making materials, rosemary, and fall rye, basil, scarlet runner seeds, rutabaga, and a pregnant onion.

**Library:** Janice Rose

- Janice told us about the fabulous book donation from the estate of Mrs. Porteous.

**Flower and garden show:** Gillian Keir

- First meeting of committee will be in January. Sign up sheet for positions circulated.

**Website:** Gord Hamilton

- The current newsletter is on the website. The newsletters will be saved in the archives

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## *November General Meeting Minutes cont'd*

### **Members Forum:**

Pip Woodcock told us that the Syrian refugee family is moving to Calgary for the better school support and proximity to relatives. They send their thanks for the community support.

**Brag Table:** Barb Kohlman with "Muddling Through!"

### **Q and A: Bill Herring**

Sweet peas should be planted in November. Plant shallots seed in December and harvest them on the longest day of the year. Leave the leaves in the garden as mulch or shred them and leave as mulch? Bill likes to clear them, chop them up and stores them for 12 months. Bill is concerned that the mulch takes nitrogen from the soil as it rots. Make sure you take the leaves off the grass. There are many ways of doing things. Your choice!

What kind of leaves are bad. Walnut is bad as it contains the poison juglans. Apple and rose leaves can carry disease and are better disposed of, not composted. Leaves should not be put on top of bark mulch unless they are shredded. You can prune Japanese maples that have branches touching the ground. It's a personal choice as to whether you prune them or not. Prune maples in the summer.

### **Social Coffee Break**

### **Raffle**

**Speaker:** Barrie Agar spoke about her recent trip to Japanese gardens.

### **Adjournment and cleanup**