

President's Message – MGABC AGM September 23, 2018

Welcome MGs, students and guests to our 2018 AGM. I am so pleased to see everyone. Our current provincial council members are: Linda Derkach, Secretary; Trine Helsoe, Treasurer; Mike Juleff, President Elect; Lynne Christmas, Director; and our chapter representatives: Jill Wright, Vancouver; Keith Campbell, Victoria; Chris Southwick, alternate for VIMGA; Lynn Barker, Prince George; Anne Marie Bell, Okanagan; and Chris Guiver, from our local chapter here in Kamloops, and I'm Karen Bennett, your president.

Thank you very much to the members of the Thompson Shuswap chapter for hosting the AGM this year, and for arranging the tours and the meet and greet yesterday. It is much appreciated. Learning about the transition of the Dufferin Wetland over the past two years was very enlightening, and the speaker, Kirsten Wourms, is a delight. It was also very interesting to tour the Secwepemc Museum and Heritage Park and listen to the tour guide there, Jackie Jewels.

Your provincial council actions this year:

Your Provincial Council is the forum and coordinating function for chapters to share their ideas and challenges, and we have great potential and a lot to offer each other. Council also sets the standards for education and membership, by which we all operate. I continue to hear that chapter members sometimes wonder why they need to be a part of MGABC, and why they need to have a chapter representative on Council. Simply put, MGABC is the chapters, and the chapters are MGABC. Keeping that connection strong is what we strive for.

We continued this year to pursue the goals we established last year. The issues we face are similar to many organizations, but master gardeners are about welcoming new beginnings, in our gardens AND in our organization, and about embracing change as it unfolds, so we continued our ongoing discussions regarding member retention, and succession planning. Admittedly, progress is a bit slow, but chapters are making headway within their own ranks, and sharing their plans with us all, so those results are tremendous. Thompson/Shuswap was the first chapter to share a recent strategic plan back in 2016, and that has served as an inspiration to the rest of us.

Also, we have strived over the past few years to increase communication, transparency, and sharing, and our website has the potential to be the vehicle that connects us all, so we hope that all members will continue to increase their usage of, and contribution to, the website, in order to keep up to date with events that are happening in their local chapters, around the province, and to share information with all of us.

As I complete my term as president, I must say that during my history with the provincial council, first as chapter rep. for VIMGA from 2013 through 2016, where I really gained a much broader knowledge about the six MG chapters in our province, and then for these past two years as president, it has been my pleasure and honor to serve MGABC. The

learning from, and laughing with, our dedicated council members has made the time very enjoyable. Thanks very much to you all!

Chapter reports from today will be posted on the website in the near future.

I am pleased to announce that the AGM in 2019 will be hosted by the Okanagan chapter! We look forward to seeing many of you again next year in Kelowna.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Bennett
MGABC President