

# Newsletter



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December 2007

## Sunshine Coast to Boast New Botanical Garden

*A report from the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society*

A world-class botanical garden on the Sunshine Coast—that was the dream five years ago when two Master Gardeners and several other visionaries got together to form the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society. Incorporated as a non-profit society on July 8, 2002, the first board of directors included Glenn Lewis, Harry Hill, Paddy Wales, Amanda Offers, Karin Tigges, Beverley Merryfield (MG), and Verity Goodier (MG). Since that time we have searched and searched for the perfect site for the garden—which is no mean feat, considering the myriad possibilities and habitats present on this water-access-only peninsula. The exact location of the garden is still in the works but will be announced in the near future, and that will be an exciting day indeed.

While working to secure a site, the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society has been active in programming. It annually sponsors horticultural lectures (Daniel J. Hinkley will speak on Valentine's Day). It also hosts educational workshops, produces a bimonthly newsletter (available for viewing on our website), holds biannual plant sales, has planted two demonstration gardens in Sechelt, and maintains a website.

The Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden will be a hybrid garden, diversified among a variety of elements, including display, education, research, conservation, and preservation—analogueous to museums because, in effect, botanical gardens are living museums. The plant collection focus of the main gardens will be on plants from temperate climate zones of the world—Western Europe; Southern Chile; Tasmania; the southeastern tip of Australia; Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and Drakensbergs of South Africa; New Zealand; Japan; and some areas in Southeast China—in order to demonstrate the variety of species that can be grown in our own temperate climate here on the West Coast. Other elements will include an ethno-



The author in Montreal's botanical garden

botanical garden that emphasizes plants used by our local First Nations peoples, a physic garden of medicinal plants, and a tea garden. Naturally, we will showcase our magnificent temperate rainforest, perhaps in a satellite garden located away from the main site. Conservation, recycling, and organic practices will be important themes as we strive to build an exemplary model of sustainable horticulture.

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# Letter from the Chair

I can't believe a year has already passed. It seems just yesterday I was getting ready to have my first council meeting and now it is time to plan another first meeting and planning session with new Council members.

It has been an interesting year. It began in February with the Master Gardeners Association of BC hosting Seedy Saturday for the first time, after being asked by the Seed Collectors to take it over. It was my first involvement with this event, and though it did snow a bit, I felt we had a good turnout.

Also this year, we have made changes to the volunteer hours and made it easier for everyone to get involved and maintain their membership as suggested by the Volunteer Hour Review Committee. And we held educational workshops set up by the Education Committee. Both of these projects were listed as Council goals for the year, along with the skill survey, which was compiled and given to Council.

This year we have had lots of good coffee and treats from the Coffee Committee, which is always a bonus at our meetings. And we held two successful joint meetings with the VanDusen Guides. We also had a summer garden party hosted by a member and a bus tour to local nurseries that are off the beaten track, arranged by a Council member.

Then disaster struck: In the middle of the summer the City of Vancouver was hit by a civic workers' strike, which closed VanDusen Botanical Gardens and had our secretary scrambling to find replacement venues for both Council and general meetings. The training courses also had to find other venues for information sessions and classes. But everyone worked together and we were able to meet and enjoy our guest speakers.

During the summer some of your Council members met with representatives from the Victoria Master Gardeners Group to discuss common problems, solutions, and the possibility of joining forces. These talks are ongoing, with another meeting set for February 2008. Council has also been in touch with a group from the University of Northern BC in Prince George, who would like to set up and run a Master Gardener program there.

Your Council is continuing to work on plans for the future and is getting the groundwork set up for a provincial council. We are also fundraising and doing succession planning for Council and the training programs. We updated both our program brochure and the agreement with VanDusen Garden.

We must all remember that we are a volunteer outreach program and, while sometimes it seems that it is a waste of time sitting in a garden shop on a cold wet spring day with no one around, the Master Gardener clinics are all part of what we do, and in most cases we are appreciated. We do get more requests for clinics than we are able to fill, so how we run our program is just one more of the many items that your Council is trying to review. The volunteer component is our way of providing continuing education for our members and the public, along with our way of giving back to the community. Unlike some of the other Master Gardener programs offered by other educational institutions, our program is not simply a course in gardening. We need to remind our volunteers and the public that our program has both a continuing education component and a volunteer component.

As I look forward to next year, I trust there will be some concrete plans and bylaws laid out for the provincial council, some good fundraising events planned, and lots of new ideas and participation offered from members throughout the province. I trust that agreements with the Victoria Master Gardeners will be finalized and that the Prince George group will be well on the way to offering the program. Students will be chomping at the bit to take these courses.

I hope that everyone has a good holiday season with family and friends. Enjoy this time of armchair gardening and dreaming and, though it may be hard, try to be patient and wait for spring. It will be here soon enough with garden planning and work, the ordering of seeds, and then the Spring Seminar on March 16, which is just around the corner.

As always please contact me directly with your ideas or concerns.

—Lynne Christmas, Chair  
[NTL234@telus.net](mailto:NTL234@telus.net)



I hope there will be some clear bright days between now and the end of the month; there are still some bulbs to plant and mulching to do, but basically the gardening is finished for this year. I look forward to the less hectic pace of winter when there is time to plan for next year and make

notes about what worked in the garden this year and what I will do differently next year.

We are already starting to plan for next year's clinics. Again, you have two options for sign up:

- By email from Friday, February 1, at 12:01 a.m. to Wednesday, February 6, at 11:59 p.m.
- Or add your name to the Clinic Signup Book at the VanDusen Botanical Garden reception desk from Monday, February 11, until Friday, March 14.

The last date for signup will be at the Spring Seminar at the Michael J. Fox Theatre on March 16.

For email signup, review the clinic dates in the 2007 Master Clinic List and then please send your requests to [mgsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mgsecretary@gmail.com), listing your choices in order of preference and stating location and date. I will do my very best to give you what you request. We may make some changes in the number and locations of clinics this year, but for the most part the structure will remain the same as last year. When signing up by email, please include your name and MG status; for example, 1st, 2nd, or MG (qualified MG) in the body of your message as I may not recognize you from your email address.

The Clinic Signup Book will again be organized into colour-coded sections organized by territory. Each colour-coded section will have a cover page that will list the addresses of the nurseries in the territory. Within those sections, each clinic will be set out on a separate page, with spaces for the required number of MGs. Please ensure that your name is printed legibly; if I can't read your name, then it will not appear correctly on the Master Clinic List.

Also, please be sure that you enter your phone number and your MG status (for example, 1st, 2nd, or MG).

A set of calendars will also be included with the binder. When you sign up for clinics, though, please be sure that you have your personal calendar with you and that you write down the dates you have committed to clinics. If you must make changes after signing up, you will be able to physically go back to the book, cross out your name, and choose another clinic anytime up to and including the Spring Seminar on March 16. The Master Clinic List will be made up based on the information in the signup book on March 16.

After March 16, if you find you are unable to commit to a clinic you signed up for, you will have to find a MG to replace you and notify the Area Coordinator and the Clinic Coordinator of the change.

When you receive your Master Clinic List in late March or early April, please check that the information is correct and that it matches the dates recorded in your calendar. Please check to see if you are listed as the Clinic Coordinator (anyone can volunteer in this role, regardless of MG status) and if you are, be sure you review the job description of Clinic Coordinator.

Something to think about! If you have a flexible schedule you might want to give your name to an Area Coordinator as a backup person who would be able to fill in at a clinic on short notice. It would really help prevent cancellation of clinics.

Several very early clinics happen in late February and early March. If you are interested in any of those clinics, please email me or telephone me in January 2008. These clinics fill up quite quickly.

If you have any suggestions or want to request a clinic at your garden club or plant sale, please send them to me by email or phone me before the end of January.

I want to thank everyone for being patient and understanding with my efforts this past year. I also want to wish all the best of the season to you and your family.

—Diane Hartley  
Overall Clinics Chair



# Community Projects

## Giving back only gets you more



“MG volunteers have made it possible for the residents to experience the beauty and tranquility the garden provides...”

Each year Master Gardeners contribute to the success of 16 projects located throughout the Lower Mainland. More than 80 MGs and students volunteered for an amazing total of 1,850 hours last year. At each site, the volunteers offered service to the community while educating participants about the satisfaction of gardening and protecting the environment. The benefits, of course, went both ways, as participants came to understand more about the natural world around them and the gardeners honed their skills while enjoying participation in a worthwhile community endeavour.

### What People Are Saying About Community Projects

Tom Heah (Northeast Mental Health Team Gardening Group) – “The Master Gardeners were enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and diligent. Their contributions were invaluable to the success of the group and we would love to have them back next year.”

Helen Tsepnopoulos (Marguerite Dixon Gardens) – “We are very grateful for the continued support from the MG volunteers. They have made it possible for the residents to experience the beauty and tranquility the gardens provide at this time of turmoil in their lives.”

Joanna Clark (Mahon Park Native Demonstration Garden) – “The Master Gardeners contributed greatly to both the improvement of the demonstration garden and providing gardening education to the volunteers. All of the MGs were great fun to work with and their presence made the events most enjoyable.”

St. James Cottage Hospice MG volunteer Maureen Thackray – “The project certainly involves hands-on gardening. Having been here two years, I can say that it is a delightful place to volunteer.”

### Range of Projects

If you are looking for a community project to volunteer with next year, a variety of programs and locations are available to choose from. Three projects are either in or are associated with schools and work with children. Another project is set in a correctional institution and helps youth to learn new skills and gain self-esteem. Yet another project assists women and their children who are fleeing abuse. Three others contribute to the quality of life of long-term residents in hospital locations, while at a mental health residence participants learn new skills and appreciation for the therapeutic benefits of gardening. A hospice project offers solace to patients and their families and friends. Burnaby Lake Regional Park and Mahon Park in North Vancouver are the location for two specialty gardens involving butterflies and native plants, respectively. Finally, the healing garden project is active at four community locations and continues to compile a comprehensive resource library focusing on the nature of healing gardens.

The following are brief descriptions of the projects to help you choose which one you would like to join.

### Alouette Correctional Centre for Women

Coordinator: Barb Collis

Located in Maple Ridge, this is a provincial correctional centre for low- and medium-risk women. In the garden, over 30 raised beds were constructed this year and the produce harvested from them was distributed to all of the residents and staff. Not only do the women find the work empowering but they also learn skills that are transferable to the community after their release. Master Gardeners help with educational aspects of the project as well as the planning of new gardens and projects. Unfortunately this project will not be continuing in 2008.

# Community Projects offer a variety of gardening experiences and locations

## Banfield Extended Care Pavilion

Coordinator: Shelagh Smith

Banfield Pavilion is the Extended Care Unit at Vancouver General Hospital. Under the direction of a Horticultural Therapist, Master Gardener volunteers provide gardening assistance and instruction to residents and other volunteers. In this horticultural therapy program, Master Gardeners help to individualize programs and to introduce their particular areas of interest and expertise to patients.

## Burnaby Nature House

Coordinator: Judy Wellington

The Burnaby Butterfly Garden is located next to the Nature House on Burnaby Lake. The garden is planted to attract birds and butterflies and is an attractive venue to inform visitors about butterflies, their habitats, and food sources. Master Gardener volunteers assist with garden maintenance and also give advice and information to park visitors, including school children who attend educational programs in the Nature House. Metro Vancouver (formerly the GVRD) is very supportive of the project and would like to see the garden expanded to include more native plant species.

## Burnaby Youth Custody Services

Coordinator: Barbara Warner

Volunteers work in both the secure and open units at the Burnaby Youth Custody services on Willingdon Avenue. Master Gardeners teach basic gardening skills to residents, aged 13 to 18 years of age, as well as plant identification and an appreciation of growing flowers and vegetables. Volunteers participate each week during the residents' educational time and they note the increase in confidence and self esteem among the youth. The produce from the gardens is used onsite in the cooking program. The program is relocating in the coming year and is hoping to expand.

## The Healing Garden Committee

Coordinator: Judy Zipursky

This committee, run by an enthusiastic and energetic coordinator, now has 15 members. Together they have continued working on two projects from last year—the Sir Charles Tupper Neighbourhood Greenway and the Union Gospel Mission Healing Garden. They have also started two new projects, one at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Langley and one at St. John's School in Vancouver. The committee, which originally focused on research, cataloguing, and developing materials related to healing gardens, now offers its expertise on how to establish and maintain healing gardens in the community. The members also attend committee meetings and visit local healing gardens to further their self-development.

## KidSafe Project

Coordinator: Carol White

The KidSafe Project helps create safe havens at times when schools are closed. The project serves at-risk students who are enrolled at Vancouver inner-city elementary schools. The KidSafe program introduces children to food gardening and promotes food security within the community. Currently, volunteers work with groups of students to plan, plant, and tend the garden at Nightingale Elementary School.

## Marguerite Dixon Transition House and Second Stage Units

Coordinator: Helen Tsepopoulos

This is a horticultural therapy program that assists staff and residents of facilities for abused women. The coordinator organizes gardening activities for the project volunteers throughout the season. Master Gardeners work with residents and staff, providing advice and gardening instruction. On the Day of Caring, Master Gardeners direct as many as 20 United Way volunteers, who come to work in the garden.

“MG volunteers provide gardening assistance and instruction to extended care residents.”

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# Community Projects are a delightful way to volunteer



MG Christine Pendreigh working at Mahon Park

## **The Pearson Gardens**

Coordinator: Judith Howard

Pearson Hospital, located in South Vancouver, is a long-term residence for disabled patients. The gardens help to improve the quality of life for the residents by upgrading the quality and variety of garden areas onsite. The coordinator also hopes that, in the future, the project will involve area residents in the planning and maintenance of these gardens.

## **Queen Alexandra School Gardening Program**

Coordinator: Sharon Hanna

The award-winning project at Queen Alexandra School works with K to 7 students in a 10,000 square foot garden, growing food, weeding, watering, and sometimes preparing food. In addition, gardening information is integrated into the academic curriculum. Activities occur every week and volunteers must participate on a regular basis. Last year over 620 volunteer hours were clocked.

## **St. James' Cottage Hospice**

Coordinator: David Stemler

The "Cottage" is a beautiful 10-bed facility for terminally ill adults that is situated in Harbour Park (Burrard View Park) overlooking Burrard Inlet and the North Shore Mountains. Master Gardeners and volunteers have filled the grounds with planters and flower beds for the enjoyment of residents, their families, visitors, and staff. The MGs create garden beds, troubleshoot pests and diseases, and advise on plant selection, location, and maintenance. They also share their wealth of gardening information with residents and visitors alike.

## **Terra Nova Schoolyard Project**

Coordinator: Ian Lai

The Terra Nova Schoolyard Project in Richmond works with K to 12 students to create an environment that promotes fresh food, healthy eating habits, and personal and social responsibility. Activities are aligned with current school curriculum and provide exciting opportunities to discover and reconnect with the earth. Master Gardeners lead groups of children in gardening activities and provide expertise on all aspects of gardening.

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## **Mahon Park Stewardship Project City of North Vancouver**

Coordinator: Joanna Clark

The Mahon Park Stewardship Group restores and enhances a 26-hectare forest in North Vancouver. It includes the Native Demonstration Garden—an interpretive garden designed to educate the public about native plants. Master Gardener volunteers provide information on the plants and coordinate community work parties, which occur once each month over a period of six months. Master Gardeners contribute to the improvement of the demonstration garden and to the ongoing education of the work-party volunteers. The coordinator hopes that Master Gardeners will become more involved in deciding future plantings and improvements to the native plant garden.

## **Northeast Mental Health Team Gardening Group**

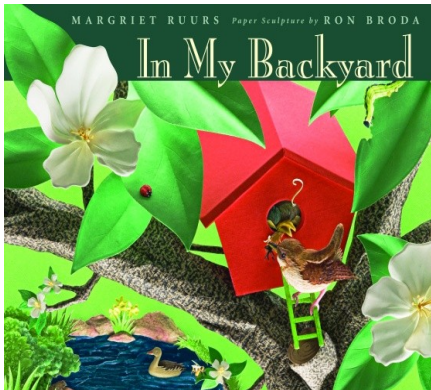
Coordinator: Tom Heah and Donna Bolger

The Northeast Team, one of several in the Lower Mainland area, uses an interdisciplinary approach to serve children, adults, and older adults who have serious mental illness. The inclusion of gardening in the rehab program recognizes the social, psychological, and physical benefits of this leisure activity. Master Gardeners work with individual participants, providing technical expertise and enthusiasm.

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# Christmas Gift Books to Encourage Young Naturalists



## ***In My Backyard***

by Margriet Ruurs

Tundra Books, 2007, hardcover, 32 pages, \$21.99

Ages 4 to 8

ISBN 978-88776-775-3

This book describes the wildlife you can find right out your back door and the plants you can grow to encourage bugs and other creatures to live in your backyard. Find the ladybug in each illustration, along with a hidden animal, which is then featured on the next page. Illustrated with beautiful paper sculptures by Ron Broda.

## ***The Butterflies' Promise***

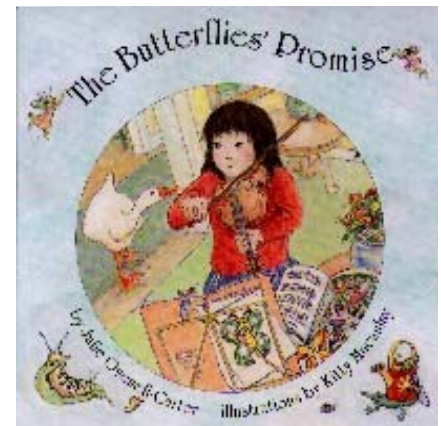
by Julie Ovenell-Carter

Annick Press, 1999, paperback, 32 pages, various prices

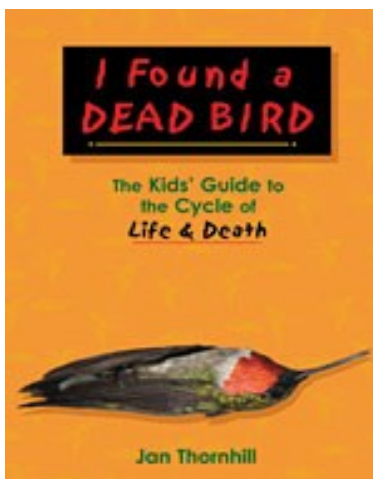
Ages 4 to 8

ISBN 978-15503-756-64

Grandpa has to leave his beloved butterfly garden and live in a nursing home. With the imagination of his granddaughter, the family builds a wheelchair garden that can be tended with special tools, and the butterflies once again visit. The book contains a page of practical information for readers on how to attract butterflies to their own gardens. Illustrated by Kitty Macaulay.



This book is out of print but you can find new and used copies at various prices online through [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com) or [amazon.ca](http://amazon.ca).



## ***I Found a Dead Bird***

## ***The Kids' Guide to the Cycle of Life and Death***

by Jan Thornhill

Maple Tree Press, 2007, 64 pages

Ages 9 to 13

ISBN: 978-1-897066-70-6 (hardcover) \$21.95

ISBN: 978-1-897066-71-3 (paperback) \$12.95

From life spans, to how things die, to what happens after death, and on to how we mark and cope with death, Thornhill takes a comprehensive look at the end of life. The dynamic brightness of the design engages readers on every spread. Winner of the Children's Literature Roundtables of Canada Information Book Award for 2007.

# Summerland Report

## Educating local gardeners through public presentations

Summerland's 2007 Fall Update theme was Beyond Nursery Clinics. Both Master Gardeners and new students heard a stimulating and informative presentation from two members of the Central Okanagan Community Gardens—Bob McCoubrey and Barb Bowmar (a Master Gardener). With photos and facts, they provided a summary of community gardens in the Kelowna area. They also provided valuable information on the process of finding property, how to deal with owners and municipalities, ways to use donated materials and funding to establish the gardens, and the mechanics of maintenance and management. The potential role for MGs in these and future community gardens was discussed, and several MGs were inspired to promote similar projects in their areas. Next, Barb Bowmar used photos and blooming plants

to convey her passion for orchids, and was ready with answers for typical questions posed to MGs at clinics and garden club meetings.

At the business meeting after lunch, the MGs agreed to establish an Executive to administer our chapter. All proposed positions were filled by volunteers; new positions and names are listed below.

We anticipate a wider range of gardening and administrative experiences for this chapter in future.

—Linda Sears  
Summerland Program Coordinator

### 2007–2008 Executive for the Summerland Master Gardeners

Program Coordinator – Linda Sears  
Vice Coordinator – Caroline Hill  
Secretary – Joyce Booker  
Treasurer – Karen Taylor  
Training Coordinator – Lorrie Henderson

Assistant Training Coordinator – Leslie Welch  
Overall Clinic Coordinator – Janis Thompson  
Clinics Administrative Assistant – Joy Campbell  
North Area Representative – Heather Sawyer  
South Area Representative – Darlene Rogers

**Master Gardeners  
Association of BC  
Annual Christmas Party**  
Sunday, December 16, 2 to 5 p.m.  
VanDusen Floral Hall

**Please bring finger food, food bank donations, and your coffee mug. Coffee, tea, and wine will be provided.**

**Doug Courtemanche has kindly offered his services with the wine again.**



# MGs Host 18th Annual Seedy Saturday

## A photographer's scrapbook



Brian Campbell with a happy customer



Judy Nelson and Mari Bruce at the book sale table



Barbara Phillips leads children in the Seed Survival Game

On the last Saturday in February, we celebrate the genetic diversity of our cultivated and native plants with Seedy Saturday, the annual seed swap festival that takes place in communities across Canada. Begun in 1989 at VanDusen Botanical Garden and organized annually by the VanDusen seed collectors, Seedy Saturday is now managed by the Master Gardeners Association of BC. Join us at the Garden for this traditional sharing of heritage, native, and organically produced seeds.

**19th Annual Seedy Saturday, February 23, 2008**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., VanDusen Botanical Garden Floral Hall



Dorothy Frost at the MG clinic table



Derry Walsh and Brian Campbell selling fruit trees

# Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden will be a gathering place



Cycad—a critically endangered living fossil

*continued from page 1*

The Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden will also be a place of learning. We are forging partnerships with

educational institutions to offer the highest quality horticultural programs, including a Master Gardener certificate program. A venue for arts, culture, and community events, as well as tea house and gift shop, will make this a gathering place for the community, as well as a destination for visitors to the Sunshine Coast.

Very soon we will break ground, and then we will need the advice of Master Gardeners and the talents of many disciplines to help us turn this vision into a living, breathing creation that will outlive all of us. Visit our website often, [www.coastbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.coastbotanicalgarden.org), to stay abreast of our progress.

—Lori Pickering

*Lori is president of the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society, and owns Jurassic Plants Nursery ([www.jurassicplantsnursery.com](http://www.jurassicplantsnursery.com)). She is growing a collection of cycads—critically endangered living fossils—to donate to the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden. This will be the most comprehensive cycad collection in Canada.*

## New Community Projects are welcome

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### Yaletown House Intermediate Care Facility

Coordinator: Shelagh Smith

Yaletown House is located in the heart of Vancouver's Yaletown district. Under the direction of a Horticultural Therapist, Master Gardener volunteers provide gardening assistance and instruction to residents.

### How the Projects Work

Each project has a designated coordinator who sets up the schedule of activities and keeps track of volunteer hours. She or he contacts volunteers to discuss the specific details of the project and provides an orientation to the goals and needs of the program. The schedules, tasks, and activities vary from project to project. Some require work every week while others have less frequent commitments. Once a commitment has been made to a project and its coordinator, it is important that this commitment be honoured as programs depend on Master Gardeners.

### Starting a Project

If you know of or work at a site that combines community service with gardening educational opportunities and you think that it might become a community project, please contact Community Project Coordinators Cheri Trewin (604-831-5352) or Joyce Fitz-Gibbon (604-439-4141) for more information. They will visit the site and discuss the potential project with you. A project will only be considered if there is an onsite coordinator (not necessarily a Master Gardener) who is willing to take responsibility for coordinating the volunteers and administering the project. If there is a coordinator and the project includes both education and service, the coordinator in consultation with Cheri and Joyce will design a description of the project for presentation to the Master Gardeners-in-training in the spring.

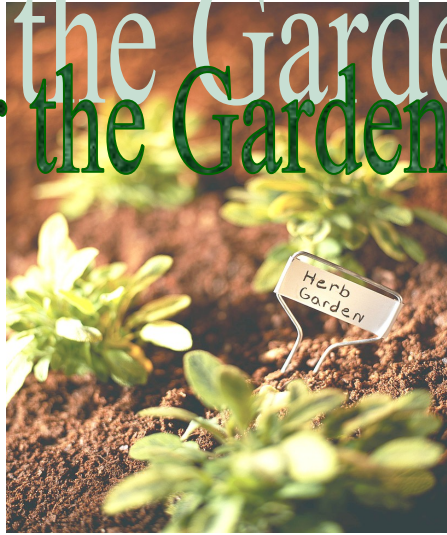
### A Final Word

Community projects count toward a Master Gardener's or student's required volunteer hours but, more than that, they are a satisfying and enjoyable way to share knowledge, build skills, and give back to the community.

—Cheri Trewin and Joyce Fitz-Gibbon, Community Project Coordinators



# Over the Garden Fence



## Master Gardeners share tips on how to start seedlings

Here are a few simple ways to start seeds inside this winter. A special thank-you to Joan Bentley, Wendy Jones Carere, and Linda Sears for sharing their gardening tricks.

If you, like me, have a passion for Haagen-Dazs ice-cream bars, then perhaps you can justify buying them by re-using the slim wooden handles in your garden. With their two broad ends, these ice-cream sticks make great plant labels for either seedlings or new plantings whose names you don't want to forget. (Linda)

Loosen and dampen the potting soil before you put it into your seed starting containers. It is easier to get a uniform level of moisture this way. Dampen the mix to the consistency of a rung-out sponge. It should be wet, but not dripping, and without dry lumps. (Wendy)

Turn clear plastic cups into a hydroponic greenhouse suited for sprouting seeds indoors:

1. Carefully poke a hole in the bottom of a clear plastic cup.
2. Fill the cup halfway with vermiculite or perlite (or peat moss alternative such as coir or bark) and set it in another plastic cup filled one-third with water and half a capful of fish emulsion.
3. Press a few seeds into the potting medium, cover with plastic wrap, and secure with an elastic band.

Keep the nested "greenhouse" moist in a bright spot out of direct sunlight. When the seeds have germinated, remove the "roof" of the "greenhouse," and watch them grow. (Joan, who found this tip in the January 2001 issue of *Gardening Life* magazine)

Another idea for starting seeds. If you have an unused stylish glass jar (apothecary type with a lid), consider using it to start seeds. (Avoid crystal because etching can occur over time.) Fill the bottom third with pebbles, marbles, or gravel for drainage and then add a layer of soil-free potting mix to start your seeds. These "seedlings on display" make interesting centerpieces and can be real conversation starters. (Joan)

You may have more gardening tips. If so, send them to the newsletter editor at [ametten@telus.net](mailto:ametten@telus.net).

Happy gardening!

—Jane Sherrott





# Newsletter

of the  
Master Gardeners Association of  
British Columbia  
Affiliated with VanDusen  
Botanical Garden Association

## Mission Statement

The Mission of the Master Gardeners' Association of British Columbia is to provide information about gardening to the community and to educate people about environmentally responsible gardening practices.

Please send all **contact information changes** to Pat Taylor, membership chair.

All other **newsletter correspondence** can be sent to the editor, Ann-Marie Metten, at [ametten@telus.net](mailto:ametten@telus.net).

Newsletter layout by Wendy Jones Carere.

The MG Newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. **Deadline for submissions** to the March newsletter is January 15, 2008.

[www.bcmastergardeners.org](http://www.bcmastergardeners.org)  
[gardener@bcmastergardeners.org](mailto:gardener@bcmastergardeners.org)

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# MG Calendar

All events take place in the Floral Hall at VanDusen Botanical Garden, unless otherwise noted.

## Sunday, December 16, 2 to 5 p.m.

Christmas Party  
Please bring finger food, food bank donations, and your coffee mug  
Coffee, tea, and wine will be provided

## Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.

General meeting  
Bill Bischoff  
*Hardy Orchids*  
Bill will bring some hardy cyclamens to sell

## Thursday, February 14, 9:30 a.m.

General meeting  
Marnie McGregor, Project Manager, Hastings Park Planning Services  
*The Long-term Planning and Landscaping of Hastings Park*  
Joint meeting with the VanDusen Guides

## Thursday, February 14, 1:30 p.m.

Daniel J. Hinkley  
Valentine's Day Lecture  
Raven's Cry Theatre  
5559 Sunshine Coast Highway, Sechelt  
\$20 members Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society  
\$30 non-members  
Tickets are available from Verity Goodier at 604-886-4895.

## Saturday, February 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*19th Annual Seedy Saturday*  
Featuring Heritage Seed Swap and Great Bean Count.  
Admission by donation.

## No monthly meeting in March

## Sunday, March 16, 9:30 a.m.

Spring Seminar (Update) 2008  
Michael J. Fox Theatre  
Burnaby South High School  
5455 Rumble Street, Burnaby

## Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia Contact List 2007

<b>Chair</b> Lynne Christmas	<b>Advanced Training</b> June Pierson	<b>Finance</b> Ron Fawcett	<b>Plant Information Line</b> Sheila Watkins	<b>Website Committee</b> Karen Shuster
<b>Chair Elect</b> Barry Roberts	<b>Basic Training (BT)</b> Doreen Godwin	<b>Fundraising/ Special Events</b> Barry Roberts	<b>Plant Sale</b> <b>Coordinators</b> Joan Bentley Loretta Barr	<b>Web Masters</b> Deb Dorey David Watkins
<b>1st Vice Chair</b> Susan Lazar	<b>Bylaws</b> Doug Courtemanche	<b>Membership</b> Pat Taylor	<b>Publicity</b> —available—	<b>Welcome Table</b> Shirley Mason
<b>2nd Vice Chair</b> Penny Koch	<b>Clinic Coordinator</b> Diane Hartley	<b>Newsletter</b> Ann-Marie Metten Sally Maclachlan Wendy Jones Carere Penny Koch Sharon Hanna Terry Dixon	<b>Selection (BT)</b> Doreen Godwin	<b>Writers Group</b> Barry Roberts
<b>Secretary</b> Diane Hartley	<b>Coffee Convenor</b> Judy Zipursky	<b>Nominations</b> Ron Fawcett	<b>Speakers Group</b> Linda Shulman	<b>VIMGA (Vancouver Island) Chair</b> Pam Harrison
<b>Treasurer</b> Ron Fawcett	<b>Community Projects</b> Joyce Fitz-Gibbon Cheri Trewin	<b>Picture Library</b> Barry Roberts	<b>Telephone/Email</b> Colleen Martin Linda Wright	<b>Secretary</b> Sally Shivers
<b>Members-at-Large</b> Leslie Ann Ingram Dana Richardson Janet Sawatsky Linda Sears	<b>Database Manager</b> Pat Taylor		<b>Update Seminar</b> —available—	<b>SMGA (Summerland) Program Coordinator</b> Linda Sears
	<b>Education Committee</b> Jack Grant			