



Change for the Better at 2009 Spring Seminar

Sunday, March 8, 2009, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Michael J. Fox Theatre, 7373 MacPherson Avenue, Burnaby

Please join us at the 2009 spring seminar on Your Ever-Changing Garden. This is your chance to be one step ahead of the change that is constantly happening in the garden.

The speakers at this year's spring seminar have been chosen not only for their depth of knowledge but also for their experience as presenters. They will provide the latest on predicted changes in their areas of expertise—climate change, invasive plants, environmental footprint, and bees—and suggest actions we can take to effect change for the better, not only in our own gardens, but in the environment as a whole.

We all look forward to hearing from Dr. Richard Hebdo, Crystal Klym, Lindsay Coulter, and John Gibeau.

Dr. Richard Hebdo curated the Climate and Climate Change exhibit at the Royal British Columbia museum. His research areas include understanding vegetation and climate history of British Columbia, ethnobotany of BC First Nations, climate change and its impacts, restoration of natural systems and processes, ecology and origins of Garry oak and alpine ecosystems, and botany of grasses.

“Climate change will transform British Columbia's landscape by the end of this century,” says Dr. Hebdo. “The outbreak of the mountain pine beetle and decline in health of western red cedar are signs that these changes have begun.”

At the spring seminar Dr. Hebdo will talk about the impact of climate change on our ecosystems and native species. He will also explain why growing native plants



and conserving natural areas as part of the urban and suburban landscape are important strategies in reducing the effects and preparing for climate change.

Crystal Klym is the project coordinator for the Invasive Plant Council of BC. She has a diploma in integrated environmental planning technology from Selkirk College and is working towards her bachelor of science in environmental management at Royal Roads University.

To give native plants a chance, Klym will explain how to control their competition: the invasives. Sometimes with the best intentions, gardeners let invasive plants sneak into the garden: wildflower seed mixes, with seductive names such as *meadow mix* or *backyard biodiversity*, may contain unwanted seed that can potentially harm home gardens and nearby natural and agricultural areas. Imported ornamentals lacking their natural pests and predators may overtake the landscape. Klym will give us key questions to ask before planting or seeding new species.

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Letter from the Chair

This is my last letter from the chair as my term is coming to an end. The past two years have been a busy and fascinating time in the MGABC garden. I'd like to acknowledge how much our gardening association has grown and changed over the past couple of years, but I also look forward to the next year, as more exciting times are to come.

Provincial outlook

As I look back over my term as chair, the first thing I'd like to do is thank all council members for their support, help, and guidance and especially for their work. Together we have accomplished a lot over the past couple of years and the membership has grown, with MGABC chapters in Prince George and Victoria. The bylaws were changed to help with the formation of a provincial council so that eventually all areas of the province will have representation. The revised bylaws also renamed my position from chair to president in order to distinguish between the chair of the Vancouver (VanDusen) chapter and the president of MGABC.

The policy and procedures manual has been finalized to guide the transition to a provincial organization. Further, the education committee is writing education standards that will act as teaching guidelines for our volunteers throughout the province. Work also continues on the identity of the MGABC and what we do, along with how we are different from the other master gardener programs.

Two years of achievement

In addition to our more provincial outlook, during the past couple of years we have hosted educational and

inspiring speakers at our meetings, along with great refreshments from the coffee committee. We have held joint meetings with the guides from VanDusen Botanical Gardens and this June the two groups came together to enjoy an evening summer party with strawberries and cream after a walk in the garden. Educational workshops and field trips with garden tours have also taken place.

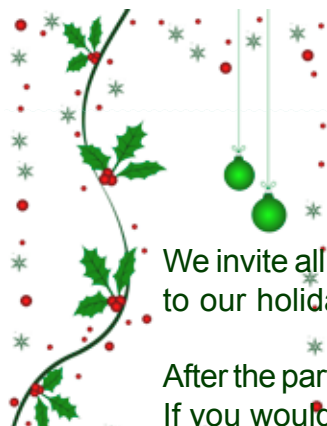
Looking ahead

As I end my term as your chair I trust the projects we have started but not finished will be continued. Your new council will be working as both the provincial and Vancouver chapter council, so they will need your help as the MGABC continues to grow. There are many committees to join and fundraising opportunities to work on. I think that our communications have improved over the past year, and it is nice to see more members attending our meetings, but there is room for still more to attend.

I hope everyone has a good holiday season with family and friends. Enjoy your winter and use it as time for armchair gardening and dreaming. Though it is hard try to be patient and wait for spring, garden work will be here soon enough and the spring seminar will be just around the corner.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you. I hope you will continue to support your new council as you have supported me.

—Lynne Christmas



MGABC Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14, VanDusen Garden Floral Hall
2 to 5 p.m.

We invite all MGABC members—qualified, students, life members, and associate members—to our holiday party. Please bring a dessert tray of finger food and a food bank donation.

After the party, take a walk through VanDusen Botanical Garden and enjoy the Festival of Lights. If you would like to donate a door prize, please let me know.

Letter from the President Elect

I was appointed president elect in November 2007 and immediately had feelings of anxiety and trepidation. Had I been elected due to (1) my excellent knowledge of gardening; (2) my excellent organizational skills; or (3) because no one else put their name forward for nomination? I guess it was the latter.



Barry Roberts with produce from last summer's veggie garden

Now, just over 12 months later, I am looking forward to serving as your chair for the next two years. My feelings have changed: I am now excited and very positive about the future of the MGABC and its chapters.

Work to date

The excellent work that my predecessors have done include:

- incorporating MGABC under the Society Act (2002)
- forming Vancouver Island MGA (2003)
- formation of Summerland MGA (2004)
- adopting the new provincial logo (dogwood logo) (2004)
- taking over organization responsibilities for Seedy Saturday (2007) at VanDusen Botanical Gardens
- achieving charitable tax status

- redefining our mission statement
- changing the bylaws to enable the MGABC to truly function as a provincial body (2008)

These have all been major steps in laying the foundation for the future. New startup chapters in Prince George and Kamloops will add strength to our association, as will the recent affiliation of the Victoria chapter. The establishment of the Vancouver (VanDusen) and other chapters—separate, but affiliated to the MGABC—will be more steps in the right direction.

The challenges ahead

With so much achieved in recent years, what challenges remain for the future? My personal opinion is that, while your council has been working on improving the governance of the association, we may have taken our eyes off the ball regarding how we are fulfilling our mission to educate the public about environmentally responsible gardening practices.

Our Basic Training program, Advanced Training program, and various workshops all aim to educate only our own members or potential members. Educating the public is currently achieved through our clinics (a declining activity), writers' group (declining), speakers' group (declining), and spring seminar (only a small proportion of attendees are general public).

One area of activity that is increasing is the very laudable community projects; these projects are very worthwhile and get my full support, but not all are strictly educational. I think we have to look again at how we interact with the public to fulfill our mission (and raise our public profile at the same time), and I will be asking the executive council to review this subject and come forward with proposals for the future.

The MGBABC has an extraordinarily strong and expanded council for 2009 (see the contact list on page 12). A vacant seat for Prince George will be filled when their training is complete and they have a qualified master gardener who is able to sit on council.

I have total confidence that with this knowledgeable and dedicated council—and with the support of our members—we will have an exciting and successful 2009.

—Barry Roberts



It will soon be time to think about signing up for next year's clinics. Email signup will take place during the first week of February; then after that the clinic signup book will be at the reception desk at VanDusen Botanical Garden. The last day for signup will be the spring seminar at Michael J. Fox Theatre on Sunday, March 8.

To prepare for email signup

Please go through the 2008 master clinic list and choose

the clinics you would like to do this year. The number and locations of clinics may change, but for the most part the structure will remain the same as shown in the master list. When you have put together a list of clinic choices, please send me an email at mgsecretary@gmail.com with your clinics listed in order of preference. State the clinic location and date, using the date given in the 2008 master clinic list. I will let you know if dates change significantly. I will also do my best to give you the clinics you request. Please include your name and MG status, e.g., first, second, or qualified MG (QMG) in the body of your email; I may not recognize you from your email address.

The clinic signup book

The clinic signup book will look different this year. Each clinic location will have a separate page, but several clinic dates will be set out on the page for that location, with spaces for the required number of MGs (I am trying to use less paper).

Please ensure that your name is printed legibly; if I can't read your name it will not appear correctly on the master clinic list. Also, please be sure that you enter your phone number as well as your MG status, e.g., first (1st), second (2nd), or qualified MG (QMG).

Making changes

When you sign up for clinics, please be sure you bring your personal calendar with you so that you can 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 in March. The master clinic list will be made up based on the information in the signup book on March 8.

After March 8, you will have to find a MG to replace you at the clinic and you will have to notify the area coordinator and the clinic coordinator about any changes.

The master clinic list

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 be, regardless of MG status) and, if you are, be sure you review the job description of clinic coordinator. I will apologize right now for any errors that may occur; I certainly do my best to ensure correct information is entered.

Do not panic if you miss email signup. Clinic spaces are always available and often new events come up throughout the season. There are other ways to acquire your hours as well. You can volunteer for community projects, write articles, and do executive and committee work if clinics are not your first choice.

Something to think about

If you have a flexible schedule, you might want to give your name to an area coordinator as a back up person who would be able to fill in at a clinic on short notice. It would really help prevent cancellation of clinics.

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.

Thanks to you all for making this job enjoyable by being so patient and understanding.

—Diane Hartley, Overall Clinic Coordinator

Clinic Signup Schedule

Email signup	February 1 to midnight February 7
Signup at VanDusen	February 10 to March 6
Last day for signup	March 8
Notify area coordinator about changes	After March 8

Spring Seminar Will Focus on the Impact of Environmental Changes

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Lindsay Coulter is the reigning Queen of Green and the nature conservation outreach coordinator at the David Suzuki Foundation. In addition to her species work, Coulter regularly provides media commentary on everyday green-living practices.

Coulter will address changes we can make to lighten our footprint on the earth by applying what she calls “green living made easy.” She says, “You can have a big impact on moving us all toward a greener future by the individual choices you make. The biggest differences depend on how you move around, the food you eat, the energy you use, and the public action you take.”

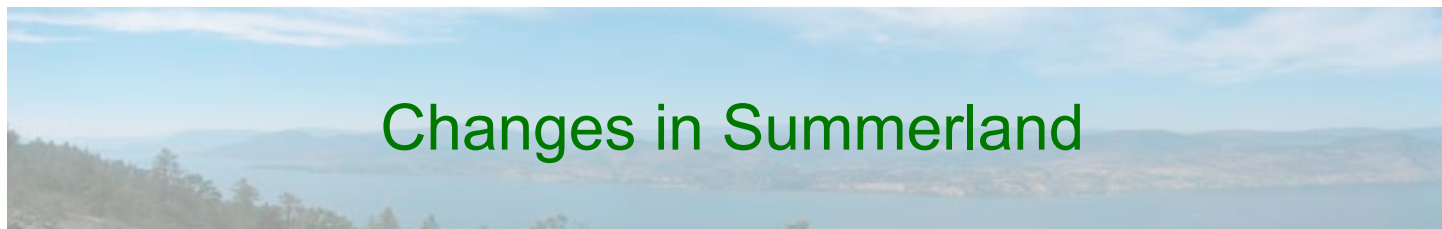
John Gibeau turned his beekeeping hobby into another career by creating Honeybee Centre, which supplies bees to the agricultural industry, teaches

all levels of beekeeping to the public, wrangles honeybees, bumbles, and wasps for the film industry, and provides bee inspection services for homeowners.

John will speak to us about colony collapse disorder and the importance of bees to food production. He will heighten our awareness of the effects that pesticides have on bees and how we can enhance bee foraging in our gardens.

By the end of the spring seminar we hope that you will be prepared for the coming changes in the environment and feel confident that you are making changes that mitigate the negative and enhance the positive. Watch for registration information at www.bcmastergardeners.org.

—Anna Camporese



Changes in Summerland

As the fifth year of activities for the Summerland Master Gardeners draws to a close, we are focusing our efforts on expanding from nursery clinics to greater involvement with our local communities. One example is the square-foot gardening project established by master gardener Caroline Hill in Kelowna (see *MGABC Newsletter*, September 2008).

From farmers' markets to informative garden tours to judging at fall fairs, our MGs have been active in many areas that allow them to pass their knowledge on to the gardening public. At our Fall Update, held in Summerland in September, we were given an overview of horticultural therapy from local practitioners and a sense of how master gardeners might become involved in this area, particularly in extended-care venues, which abound in the Okanagan region.

With the Basic Program training in Kamloops underway, we are now organizing the same program for Kelowna, to start in January 2009. Since the beginning in 2004, we have expanded to more than three dozen active members, and anticipate more from the Kamloops and Kelowna students next year. The influx of new viewpoints is expected to expand our activities in educating the public about sustainable gardening practices.

In January 2009, Caroline Hill will take over as program coordinator for the Summerland Master Gardeners. I take this opportunity to thank all of the students and mentors who have given so much to establish our group in the Central Interior. As a member of the MGABC council, I will continue to pass on to our local members the goals of our organization.

—Linda Sears, Program Coordinator

Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association

The Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association (VIMGA) is pleased to have a new Basic Training class running at the Parksville campus of Vancouver Island University (VIU, formerly Malaspina University-College). This new Basic Training class is the first to run under our new service agreement with VIU and we are delighted with this collaboration.

Changes in Basic Training

VIMGA is also especially pleased with the improved orientation and screening process for prospective master gardeners that took place on September 15. The evening began with detailed presentations by VIU and VIMGA; then MG candidates filled in student information sheets, wrote the qualifying quiz on basic gardening knowledge, and completed an informal interview with one of eight qualified VIMGA MGs while the quiz was marked. The qualified MGs answered final questions, and after the applicants had left we de-briefed, looking at the whole profile of the student to take into consideration all aspects of the information gleaned.

In selecting candidates, we were looking for a good understanding of the demands of the course, plus



Over the past two years VIMGA members Kim Hammond and Janet Sawatsky have produced a number of two-minute gardening spots that air on Shaw cable. Kim and Janet offer seasonal advice under the MG banner and have heard feedback from viewers as far south as Victoria and as far north as Campbell River. They are amazed at how much preparation two minutes takes!

a balance of gardening knowledge, gardening experience, and commitment to volunteering. Of the 37 prospective students who attended, 23 were welcomed as registered participants, three more than the usual class size.

VIMGA MGs deliver the Basic Training course on a part-time basis over 12 weekends, beginning in mid-October and continuing until the end of January. This year's course again has a full slate of mentors attending each class. The Basic Training course also now includes a Plant ID component, with 50 plants to be profiled before qualification. We are looking forward to welcoming these students to clinics in the spring, where they will complete 70 volunteer hours before qualifying as MGs.

Clinic sign-up

In other news, we are adopting what we hope will be a less stressful clinic sign-up procedure for 2009. The revised sign-up procedure will involve members and students meeting to sign up in smaller groups in their logical geographic areas from Duncan to the Comox Valley. Our master planner, Linda Derkach, will continue to tie all the threads together, with the help of an increased number of district planners and area representatives.

Three of our members, Linda Derkach, Kim Hammond, and Janet Sawatsky, have embarked on or have completed the Advanced Training course. What a great commitment they show for continuing MG education.

Other activities

At the recommendation of these MGs, the VIMGA October 19 AGM enjoyed two wonderful talks by Gwen Odermatt, one of the speakers for the Advanced Training course. At that meeting we also raffled off a beautiful quilt and enjoyed our usual plant sale and as little business as we could get away with! Attendance at meetings is always a challenge with our widespread membership, but the 37 members who attended went away richer on many fronts.

Finally, we are bidding farewell to our little band of Victoria MGs, who under the caring wings of Jenny English and Shirley Rainey have been with us since the inception of VIMGA. They have finally come to the conclusion that their more logical home is with the larger group of Victoria MGs who are based at Glendale Gardens. Although this move makes sense we will miss them but look forward to their continued involvement through MGABC.

—Pam Harrison, President, VIMGA

MGABC joins with Victoria Master Gardeners

Welcome to new members from Victoria

VMGA currently has a strong membership of 100 passionate gardeners from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences.

Basic Training in Victoria

The academic portion of our Basic Training program is delivered through the community education program at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, Glendale Gardens and Woodland, and our association has a strong working and business relationship with the HCP. The Basic Training course involves 31 three-hour sessions combining classroom instruction, field trips, home study, assignments and in-class projects, over a 16-week period. Classes run every Sunday morning and every Thursday evening.

The MG curriculum was reviewed by a committee that was led by a trained educator and included a service user client survey. Some recommendations from the committee's final report have already been implemented.

The heart of the association

Over the past few years the VMGA has made significant progress in our management framework. In addition to our elected executive members, we have a structure of diverse committees and working groups that is coordinated by team leaders. These teams of volunteers are at the heart of our association and provide the leadership and guidance for our members in a structured environment.

At this time, we believe our growth as an association will be enhanced by our new affiliation with the provincial body. We were pleased to be asked to become an affiliate member, and we are looking forward to making a contribution with our new colleagues.

On behalf of my executive and our members, thank you for the opportunity to work with you in our collective vision of educating the public on sustainable gardening practices.

—Jan Hemming, President, VMGA



Front row, from left: Linda Sheridan, Chris Neilson, Jenny Ferns, Sandra Aitchison
Back row, from left: Sue Wright, Cindy Spangelo, Jan Hemming, Reneé Newell

What we've done so far

Some of the highlights of the Victoria organization's accomplishments by our volunteer members include:

- development of our association logo
- design and management of our website
- annual recognition of our founding and long-term members
- provincial registration of our name
- management of more than 200 clinics and more than 1,800 volunteer hours per year
- increased community garden projects
- tour guides at the HCP
- implementation of a pesticide policy
- speaking engagements for local garden clubs
- writing articles for local garden club newsletters
- implementation of training and mentoring for new master gardeners
- advanced education opportunities for continuous learning
- an intensive review of the current MG curriculum

Community Projects

Fourteen different endeavours to choose from

Master gardeners contribute to the success of 14 community projects throughout the Lower Mainland each year. In 2008, 85 qualified MGs and students volunteered for an amazing total of 1,810 hours. They also supervised 197 community volunteers, who contributed a further 1,100 hours to the community projects as well. At each community project site, qualified master gardeners and MGs in training offer service to the community while educating participants about the satisfaction of gardening and protecting the environment. The benefits, of course, go both ways, as participants come to understand more about the natural world around them and the gardeners hone their skills while enjoying participation in worthwhile community endeavours.

Range of Projects

If you are looking for a community project to volunteer with in 2009, a variety of programs and locations are available. Three projects take place either at or in association with schools and work with children.

Another project is set in a correctional institution and helps youth 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, while in a community project set 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, Richmond Nature Park, and Mahon Park in North Vancouver are the location for three specialty gardens that involve butterflies or peat bog habitat or native plants, respectively. Finally, the Healing Garden Committee is active in 10 community locations and continues to compile a comprehensive resource library focusing on the nature of healing.

The following are brief descriptions of the current projects open to volunteers in 2009.

KidSafe Project

Coordinator: Alison Kelly

The KidSafe Project helps create safe havens at times when schools are closed. The project serves up to 400 at-risk students who are enrolled in five 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, which is located at Nightingale School. KidSafe also has an established native and non-native food garden at Macdonald School. Coordinator Alison Kelly says, "We are very grateful for the volunteers from the Master Gardener program. The kids love them, and they make our project possible."

Queen Alexandra School Gardening Program

Coordinator: Ian Lai

The award-winning project at Queen Alexandra School works with K to 7 students in a 10,000 square foot garden that includes vegetable beds, butterfly and wildflower gardens, small fruits, annual, perennials, and trees. There is also an active composting program. Activities include growing food, weeding, watering, and preparing food from the garden. Salads are featured in the summer and soups in the winter. Master gardeners can volunteer for a single three-hour session or attend weekly during the months that the program runs. Queen Alexandra School has a culturally diverse student population and experience has shown that the children love to garden.

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 six to eight children in gardening activities and provide expertise on all aspects of gardening.

Burnaby Youth Custody Services

Coordinator: Barbara Warner

Volunteers work in both the secure and open units at the Burnaby Youth Custody Centre located at 7900 Fraser Park Drive, a new location

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Eighty-five qualified MGs and students volunteered for an amazing total of 1,810 hours for community projects.

east of the Fraser Foreshore Park and Byrne Road in South Burnaby. Master gardeners teach residents, aged 13 to 18 years, basic gardening skills, plant identification, and an appreciation of growing flowers and vegetables. Volunteers participate each week during the residents' educational time, and they note the growth in confidence and self esteem among the youth. There is also real potential to expand the program as the new location has a greenhouse and raised beds. Barb is looking for a replacement coordinator and is willing to train the incumbent.

Marguerite Dixon Transition House and Second Stage Units

Coordinator: Helen Tsepnopoulos

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. During three Day of Caring sessions, Master gardeners directed as many as 20 United Way volunteers who came to work in the garden. They weeded, pruned, and constructed a brick garden edging, which will make the garden easier to maintain. Next year, Helen would like to share the co-coordinator position with another master gardener willing to devote at least four hours per week to the project.

Banfield Extended Care Pavilion

Coordinator: Shelagh Smith

Banfield Pavilion is the Extended Care Unit at Vancouver General Hospital. It has a large rooftop garden, greenhouse, entrance garden with hanging baskets, and three north

balcony gardens. Under the direction of a horticultural therapist, master gardener volunteers meet every fifth Saturday to provide residents with an educational, storytelling, and sensory experience in the Banfield garden. The residents expressed their appreciation by saying that the sessions were interesting, educational, and fun. Volunteers who are fluent in Mandarin or Cantonese would be an asset to the program.

Pearson Long-term Care Facility

Coordinators: Judith Howard and Rhonda Tuyp

Pearson Hospital, located in South Vancouver, is a long-term residence for patients who are ventilator or wheelchair bound. Master gardeners help to improve the quality of life for the residents by upgrading the quality and variety of garden areas onsite. In addition to ongoing pruning and maintenance, a new garden has been created by entrance. The team would like to involve more volunteers from the surrounding community to join in the planning and maintenance of these gardens.

Yaletown House Intermediate Care Facility

Coordinators: Shelagh Smith and Coral Ayerst

Yaletown House is located in the heart of Vancouver's Yaletown district. It is a three storey building in the shape of a "U" with a protected courtyard garden, a greenhouse and a rooftop garden. Master gardener volunteers provide gardening assistance and instruction to residents.

North East Mental Health Team Gardening Group

Coordinator: Tom Heah

The North East Team, one of several in the lower mainland area, serves children, adults and older adults with serious mental illness, using an interdisciplinary approach. 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.



Union Gospel Mission Garden

St. James' Cottage Hospice

Coordinator: David Stemler

The cottage is a beautiful ten-bed facility for terminally ill adults that is situated in Harbour Park overlooking Burrard Inlet and the North Shore Mountains. The grounds are filled with planters and flower beds for the enjoyment of residents, their families, visitors and staff. The Master Gardeners help create garden beds, trouble-shoot pests and diseases and advise on plant selection, location and maintenance.

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Community projects are a satisfying and enjoyable way to share knowledge, build skills, and give back to the community.

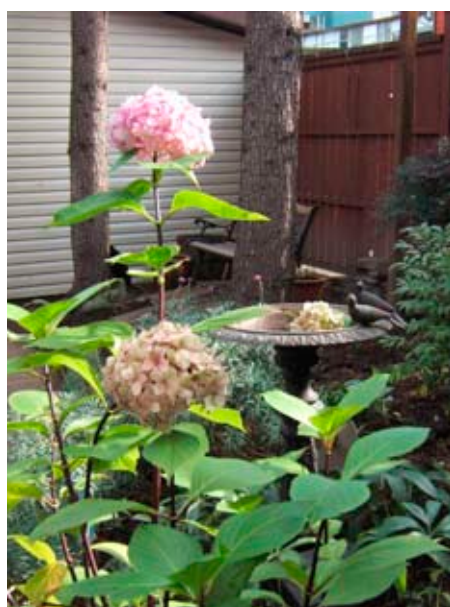
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They also share their wealth of gardening information with residents and visitors alike. David and Carol, the hospice staff person who also volunteers many hours with the gardens would like to have some MGs for February and March next year to help get the gardens off to an earlier start.

Burnaby Lake Nature House

Coordinator: Judy Wellington

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. This year new paths were added to improve access



Garden at Union Gospel Mission



Birdhouse at the Inglewood Friendship Lodge

to the garden. The GVRD is very supportive of this project and would like to see the garden expanded to include more native plant species.

Mahon Park Stewardship Project

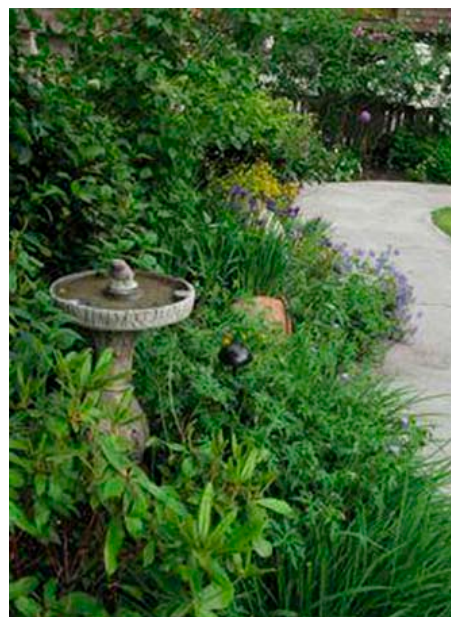
Contact: Andrew Appleton

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

Richmond Nature Park

Coordinator: Rich Kenny

The Richmond Nature Park, located on Westminster Highway, consists of 80 hectares of raised peat bog – a remnant of the unique temperate wetlands that once covered large portions of Lulu Island. The majority of the Nature Park is maintained in a natural state where visitors may explore the bog via a series of meandering trails. The Park is currently developing wildlife gardens to demonstrate sustainable gardening practices that enhance wildlife habitat in urban areas. Master gardeners are needed to participate in this garden project by advising on plant selection and placement, assisting with some of the planting and becoming an integral part of the garden program by speaking to the public about the importance of gardening for wildlife. Volunteers would be appreciated year round for this project.



Birdbath at the Inglewood Friendship Lodge

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Each volunteer receives an orientation regarding the goals and the needs of the program.

The Healing Garden Committee

Coordinator: Judy Zipursky

This committee which is run by a very enthusiastic and energetic coordinator now has 20 members and has continued working on three projects from last year – the Sir Charles Tupper Neighbourhood Greenway, the Union Gospel Mission Healing Garden, and the St. Andrew's Church Biblical Plant Garden in Langley. Committee members have also been involved with seven new projects this year including the Inglewood Lodge Friendship Garden in West Vancouver, A Cops for Cancer – Children's Garden and several community gardens. The committee, which originally focused on research, cataloguing, and development of materials relating to healing gardens, now offers its expertise on the establishment and maintenance of healing gardens in the community. The members also attend committee meetings and visit established healing gardens to further their self-development.

How the Projects Work

Each community project has a designated coordinator who sets up the schedule of activities and keeps track of volunteer hours. The coordinator contacts potential 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 time commitments. Once a commitment has been made to a project and its coordinator, it is important that this commitment

be honoured in the same way as you would a plant clinic. These programs depend on master gardeners and their expertise.

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 or Joyce Fitz-Gibbon for more information. We will discuss the potential project with you. A project will only be considered if an onsite coordinator (preferably a master gardener) is willing to take responsibility for coordinating the volunteers, recording the hours, and administering the project. If a coordinator is available and the project includes both education and service, the coordinator in consultation with the Cheri or Joyce will design a description of the project for inclusion in the roster of projects that is presented to the master gardeners-in-training in the spring. These projects will also be available with the clinic sign-up book.

A Final Word

Community projects count toward a master gardener's or student's required volunteers 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



Shady haven at
Union Gospel



Patio at Union Gospel Mission



Lilacs at the
Inglewood Friendship



Newsletter

of the Master Gardeners Association
of British Columbia
in Association with
VanDusen Botanical Gardens 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.

Newsletter layout by Wendy Jones.

The MG Newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. **Deadline for submissions** to the December newsletter is January 30, 2009.

www.bcmastergardeners.org
gardener@bcmastergardeners.org



MG Calendar

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

Sunday, December 14, 2 to 4 p.m.

Christmas party

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

Tuesday, January 13, 9:30 a.m.

General meeting
Daniel Mosquin
Public Gardens of California

Thursday, February 12, 9:30 a.m.

General meeting
Harry Jongerden
Getting to know VanDusen
Botanical Garden's garden director
Joint meeting with VanDusen Guides

Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

20th Annual Seedy Saturday
Featuring Heritage Seed Swap
Admission by donation

Sunday, March 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spring seminar
Michael J. Fox Theatre
Burnaby South High School
5455 Rumble Street, Burnaby

Sunday, March 22, to Thursday, March 26, 2009

2009 International MG Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada
Find out more at
www.unce.unr.edu/imgc

Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia 2009 Executive

Barry Roberts, President
Lynne Christmas, Past Chair
Susan Lazar
Penny Koch
Pam Harrison
Linda Derkach
Heather Nielsen
Ron Fawcett, Treasurer
Leslie Ann Ingram
Terry Dixon
Dana Richardson
Carson Cooledge
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Vancouver-Richmond
Vancouver-Richmond
Vancouver-Richmond
Vancouver Island
Vancouver Island
Vancouver-Richmond
Abbotsford-Langley-Chilliwack
North and West Vancouver
North and West Vancouver
White Rock-Point Roberts
Burnaby-New Westminster
Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam-Maple Ridge
Summerland-Kamloops
Victoria-Sechelt